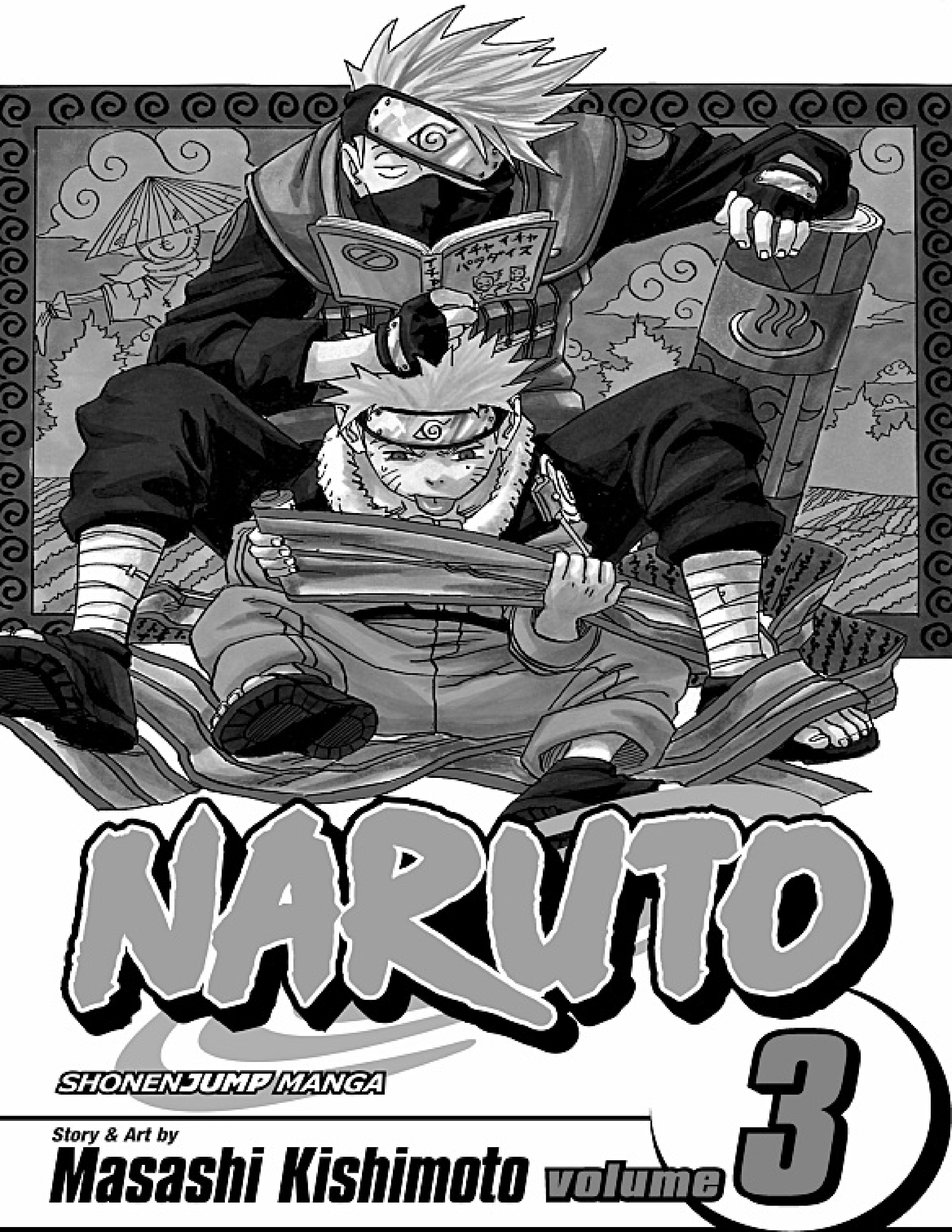
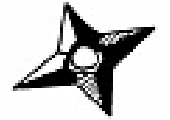

NARUTO
SHONENJUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 3





We're in the third volume of **Naruto**. I feel like I've developed a lot working on this title, but I still have a long way to go. My heart and body are still weak! I must devote a mountain of training to my work on **Naruto**! I want everyone to join me and share in the excitement of **Naruto**!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 3
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #11-14.

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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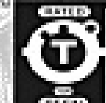
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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL



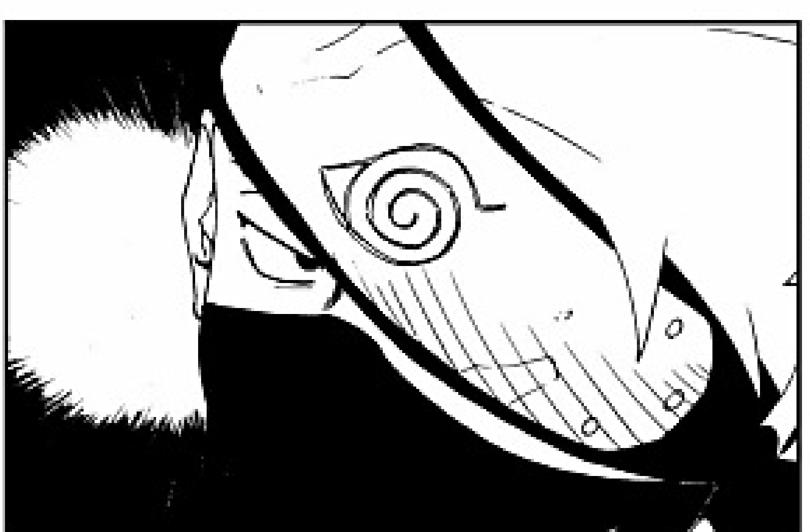
VOL. 3

BRIDGE OF COURAGE

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

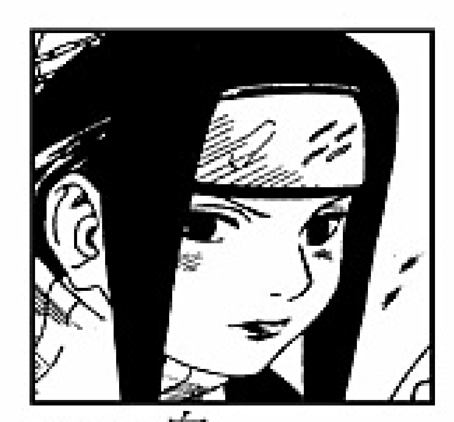




KAKASHI カカシ
An upper-level ninja. His *sharingan* eye can deflect and duplicate enemy *ninjutsu*. Currently injured from his fight with Zabuza.



ZABUZA 再不斬
A sword-wielding assassin-ninja known as "the demon." Currently injured from his fight with Kakashi.



HAKU 白
Zabuza's consort, an agile young ninja of indeterminate gender.



TAZUNA タズナ
A grumpy old bridge-builder. He has a daughter, Tsunami, and a grandson, Inari.

THE STORY SO FAR...

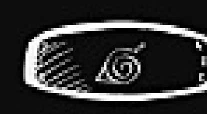
Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura are a team of apprentice ninjas from the ninja village of Konohagakure. On their first big mission, they (and their trainer Kakashi) found themselves bodyguarding the bridgebuilder Tazuna on his way back home to the Land of the Waves. But Tazuna hadn't revealed that he was the target of professional hitmen, hired by the evil millionaire Gatô to keep him from finishing his bridge! In a desperate fight, the four ninja were able to defeat the assassin Zabuza—but a mysterious masked ninja stole Zabuza's body before the heroes realized he wasn't dead. Now, assassins and bodyguards are both preparing for a rematch...



SAKURA サクラ
Naruto and Sasuke's classmate. She has a crush on Sasuke, who ignores her. In return, she picks on Naruto, who has a crush on *her*.

NARUTO ナルト
When Naruto was an infant, he was used as a living sacrifice in a magic rite: a demonic fox spirit was sealed inside his body to keep it from wreaking havoc in the outside world. The orphan Naruto grew up to be an attention-seeking troublemaker. Despite the evil spirit inside him, he just wants to be the best ninja ever, and become the *Hokage*, the village champion.

SASUKE サスケ
The top student in Naruto's class, and a member of the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal is to get revenge against a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.



NARUTO

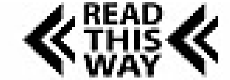
VOL. 3
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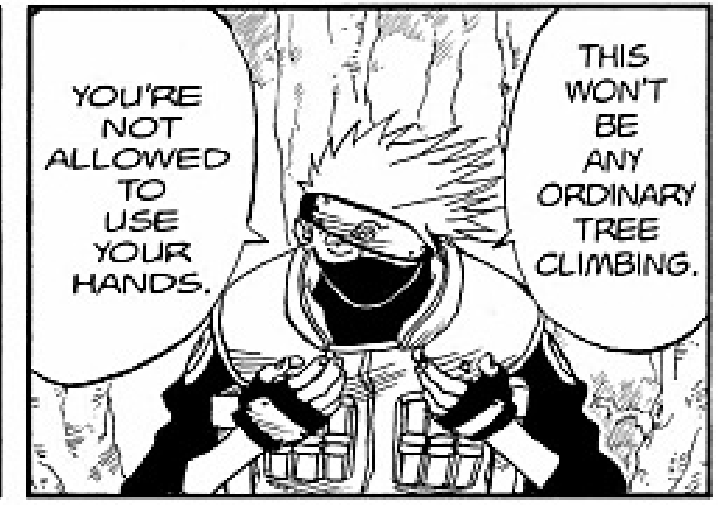
CONTENTS





Number 18: Training Day
CLIMB TREES --?!!
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME--!
HOW WOULD THAT QUALIFY AS TRAINING?
LISTEN UP, YOU THREE.

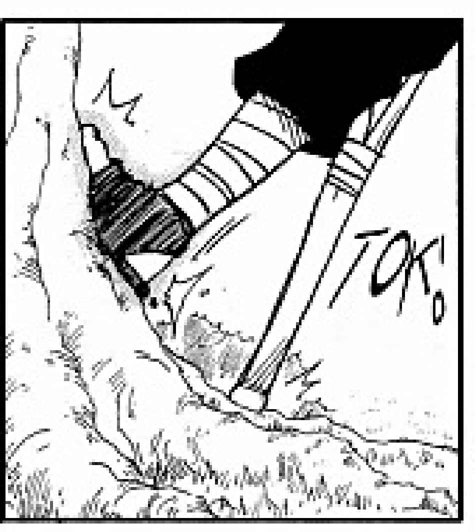

READ THIS WAY


THIS WON'T BE ANY ORDINARY TREE CLIMBING.
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO USE YOUR HANDS.


!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN--!
? HOW... ?


WATCH AND LEARN.
CLAP

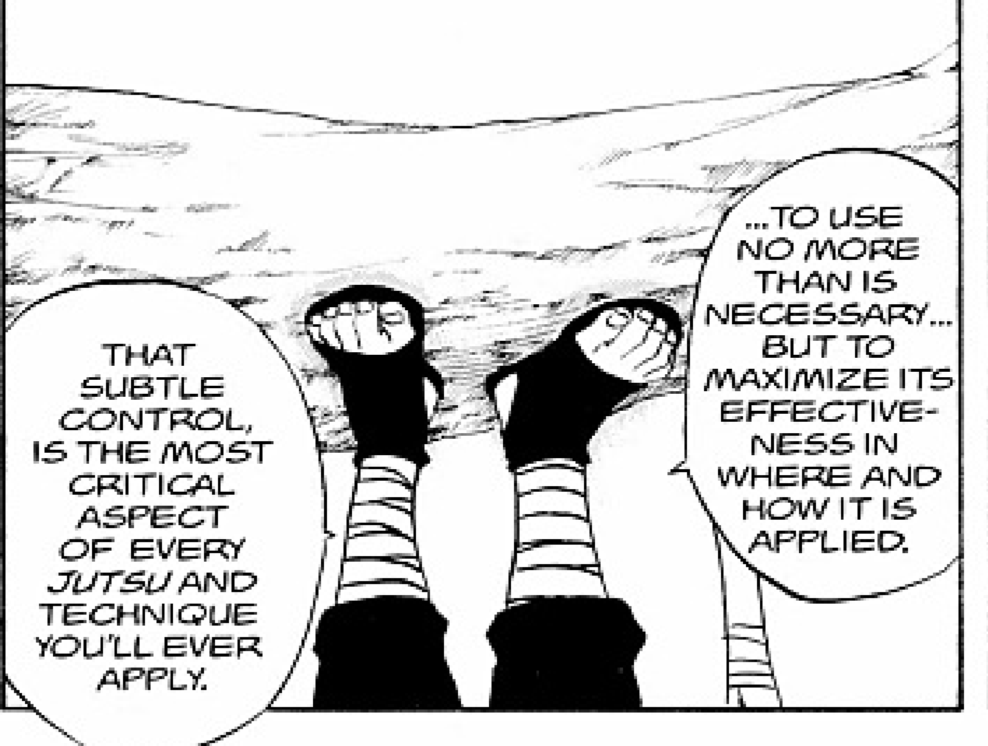

TAP


TOK!

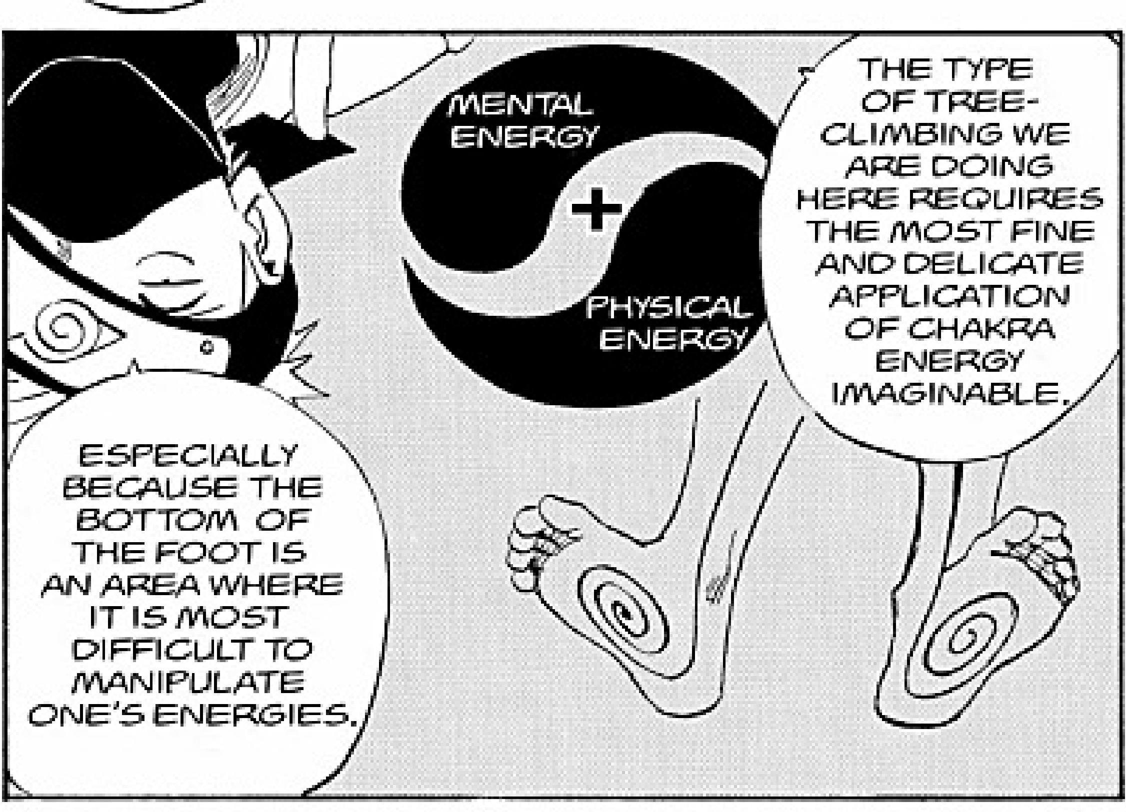

!


TOK
TOK
!!


...
HE'S CLIMBING...
..WITH HIS LEGS... AND FEET... PARALLEL TO THE GROUND!
PHEW
THAT'S IT, IN A NUTSHELL.
FOCUS ALL OF THE ENERGY OF YOUR CHAKRA TOWARD THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET AND USE THAT POWER TO CLING TO THE TRUNK.
WHEN YOU HAVE FULL MASTERY OVER YOUR OWN CHAKRAS, THIS IS THE KIND OF THING YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH.
BUT... MASTER KAKASHI... HOW WILL LEARNING TO CLIMB TREES THIS WAY MAKE US ANY STRONGER?
I'M JUST GETTING TO THAT.
LISTEN AND LEARN.
THE POINT OF IT ALL, THE GOAL...

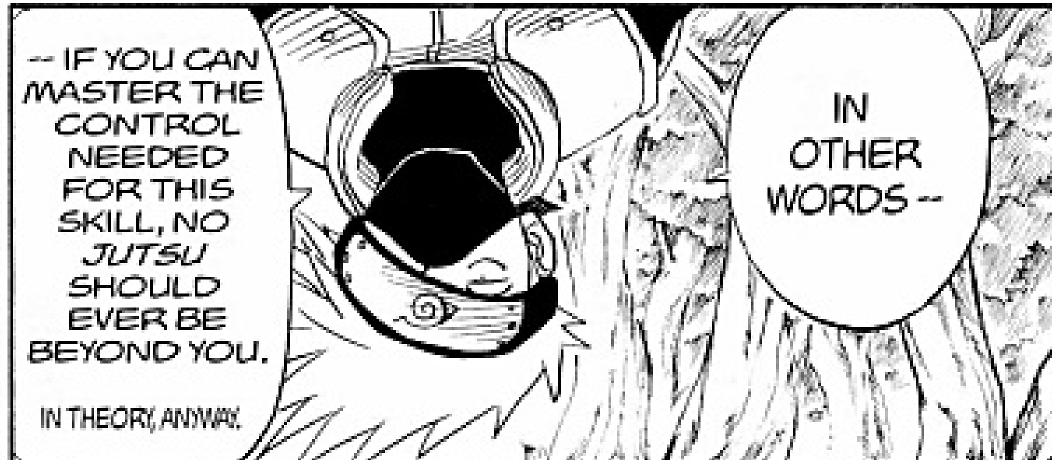

THAT SUBTLE CONTROL, IS THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECT OF EVERY *JUTSU* AND TECHNIQUE YOU'LL EVER APPLY.
...TO USE NO MORE THAN IS NECESSARY... BUT TO MAXIMIZE ITS EFFECTIVE-NESS IN WHERE AND HOW IT IS APPLIED.

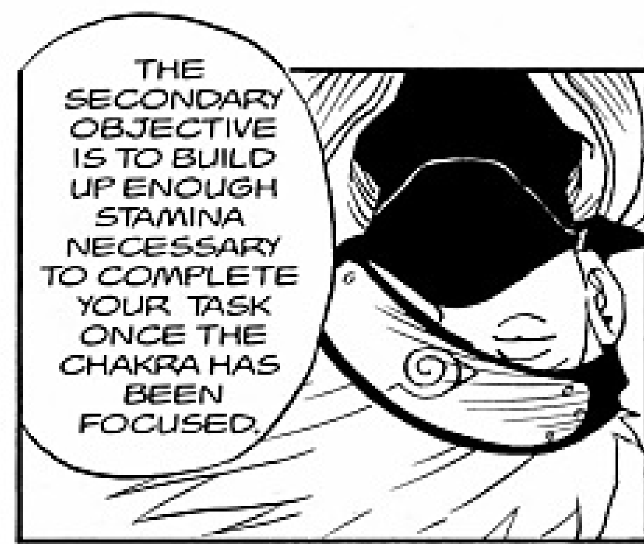

...IS GREATER MASTERY OVER THE CHAKRAS.

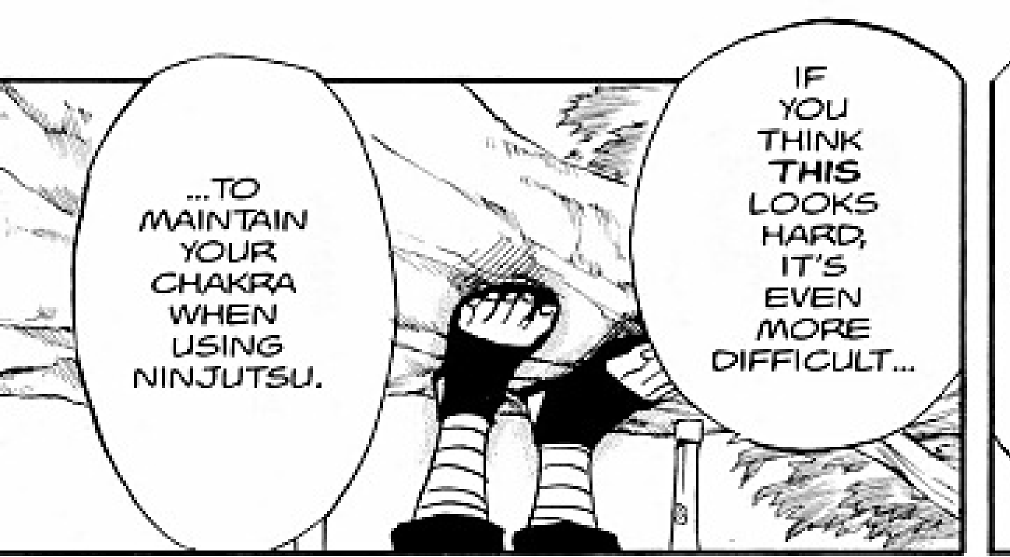

MENTAL ENERGY
+
PHYSICAL ENERGY
THE TYPE OF TREE-CLIMBING WE ARE DOING HERE REQUIRES THE MOST FINE AND DELICATE APPLICATION OF CHAKRA ENERGY IMAGINABLE.
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOT IS AN AREA WHERE IT IS MOST DIFFICULT TO MANIPULATE ONE'S ENERGIES.


IT'S ALSO THE MOST DIFFICULT SKILL FOR EVEN A MASTER NINJA TO COMMAND.


OOH!


IN OTHER WORDS --
-- IF YOU CAN MASTER THE CONTROL NEEDED FOR THIS SKILL, NO *JUTSU* SHOULD EVER BE BEYOND YOU.
IN THEORY, ANYWAY.

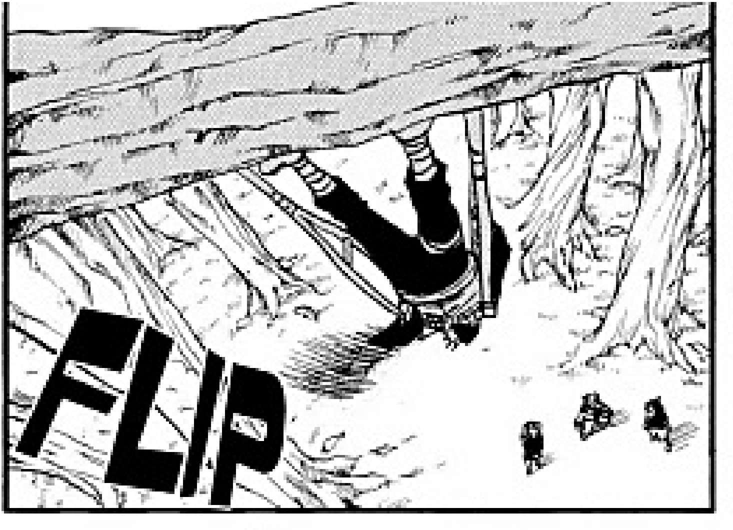

THE SECONDARY OBJECTIVE IS TO BUILD UP ENOUGH STAMINA NECESSARY TO COMPLETE YOUR TASK ONCE THE CHAKRA HAS BEEN FOCUSED.

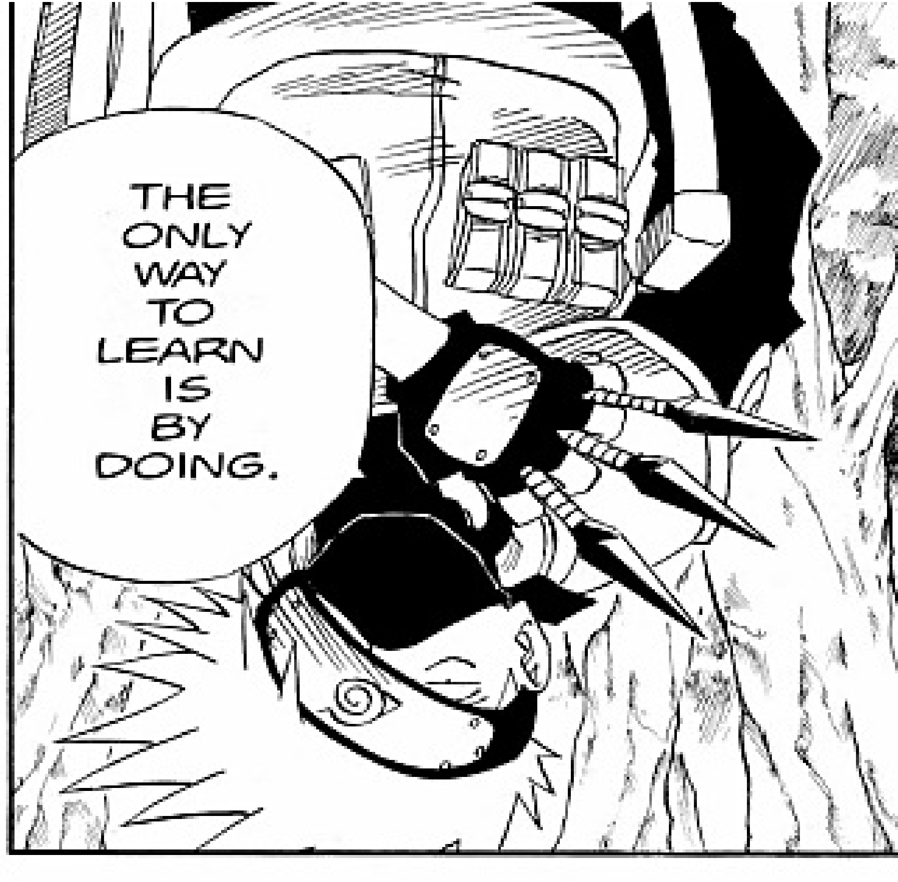

IF YOU THINK **THIS** LOOKS HARD, IT'S EVEN MORE DIFFICULT...
...TO MAINTAIN YOUR CHAKRA WHEN USING NINJUTSU.

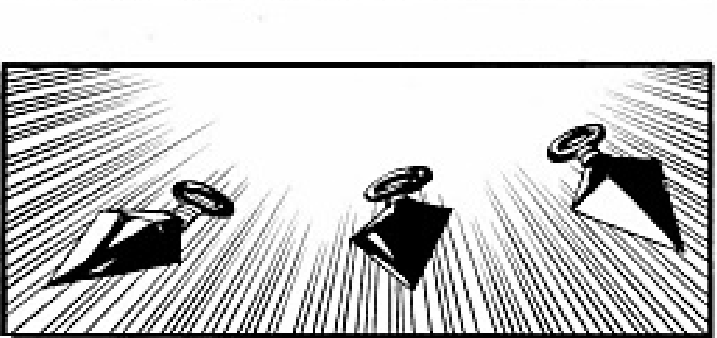

IN BATTLE, CIRCUMSTANCES ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING, AND A TRUE SHINOBI HAS TO BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE AND MAINTAIN HIS CHAKRAS ON THE FLY, IF HE EVER HOPES TO PREVAIL.
THE TIME YOU NEED TO JUST STAND AROUND TRYING TO SUMMON AND CONTROL YOUR OWN POWERS IS A LUXURY YOU WON'T HAVE.

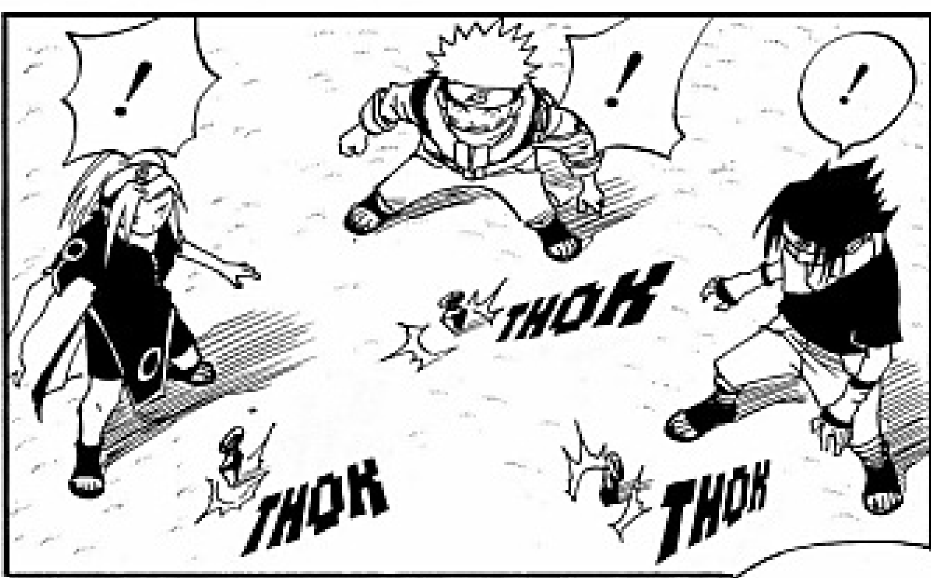

SO WHILE YOU'RE CLIMBING THOSE TREES...
...YOU'LL ALSO BE MASTERING SKILLS THAT WILL PROBABLY SAVE YOUR LIVES.


FWUP
...NOW, NO MORE TALK. IT'S TIME FOR ACTION.


FLIP


THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN IS BY DOING.




!
!
!
THOK
THOK
THOK


USE THE *KUNAI* BLADES TO SCORE THE BARK AT THE HIGHEST POINT YOU CAN CLIMB TO. IT WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER FOR LATER.


YOUR GOAL IS TO MAKE A MARK ON A HIGHER SPOT EACH TIME YOU CLIMB.
I DON'T EXPECT ANY OF YOU TO REACH THE TREETOP ON YOUR FIRST TRY.
A RUNNING START WILL PROBABLY GIVE ENOUGH MOMENTUM FOR A GOOD FIRST EFFORT. ALL RIGHT?

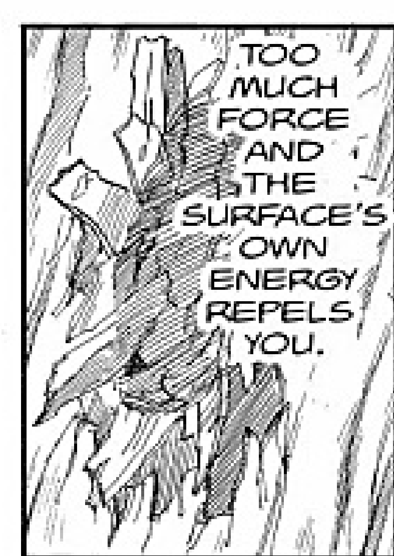

READ THIS WAY
NO SWEAT!!
I COULD DO THIS ONE BEFORE BREAKFAST!
SMAT
I'M THE FASTEST-DEVELOPING NINJA ON THIS TEAM!
...
LESS TALK AND MORE ACTION.
CHOOSE YOUR TREES AND UP YOU GO!
RIGHT—
FOCUS MY CHAKRA IN MY FEET...
OOOOOHMM
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!!
MMMMMMM
TAK TAK TAK
THOMP

TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
BAAM
WHOOP
OWWW..!!!





FWUP
TAP
GRRR
MAINTAINING FOCUS IS A LOT HARDER THAN I EXPECTED...









SAKURA...?!

GIGGLE

WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHICH OF YOU THREE HAS THE BEST CONTROL OVER HER CHAKRAS.

OUR YOUNG LADY.








... SAKURA IS PROBABLY THE ONE CLOSEST TO OVERTAKING OUR LEADER, LORD HOKAGE...
DESPITE ALL OF NARUTO'S BOASTS AND ASPIRATIONS...

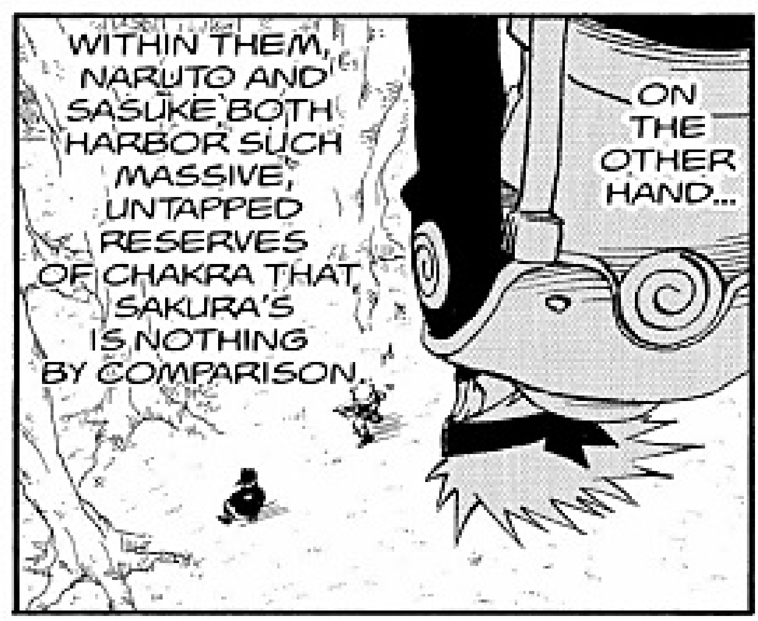

WELL...! UNDER-STANDING THE USE OF ONE'S CHAKRAS AND MANIPULATING THEM, SUCCESSFULLY...
... IS QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT. SO FAR..



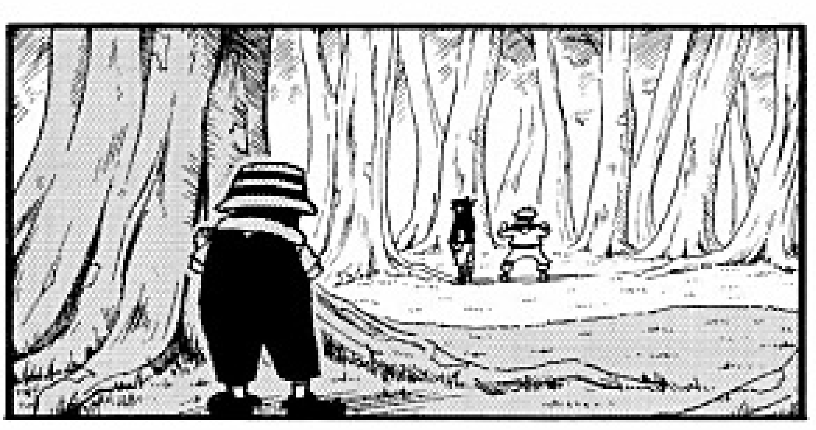

MASTER KAKASHI, HOW COULD YOU?!
SASUKE'S GOING TO HATE ME!

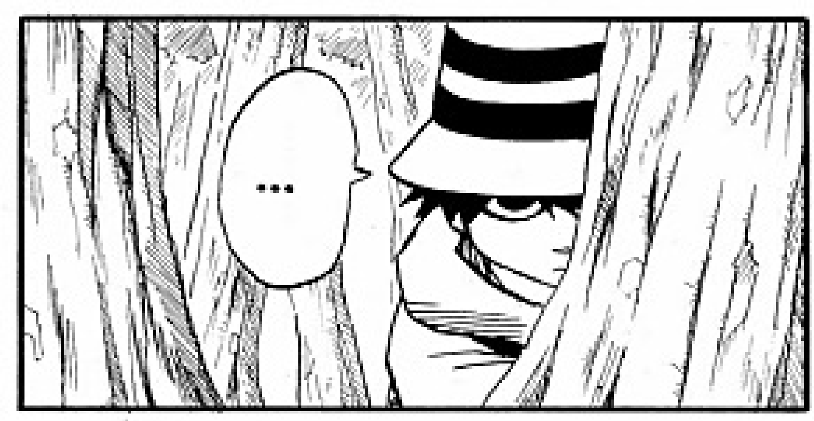

AND THE FINEST HOPE OF CLAN UCHIHA DOESN'T SEEM TOO IMPRESSIVE, EITHER.
STAB

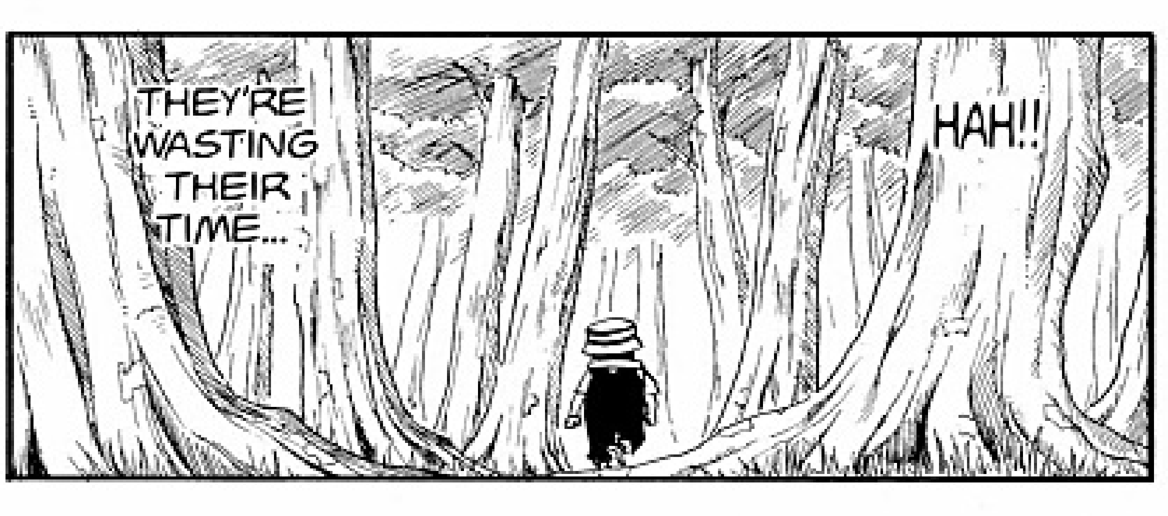

IF THIS LESSON GOES AS PLANNED...
... BY THE END, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAP THOSE VAST RESOURCES.


ON THE OTHER HAND...
WITHIN THEM, NARUTO AND SASUKE BOTH HARBOR SUCH MASSIVE, UNTAPPED RESERVES OF CHAKRA THAT SAKURA'S IS NOTHING BY COMPARISON.

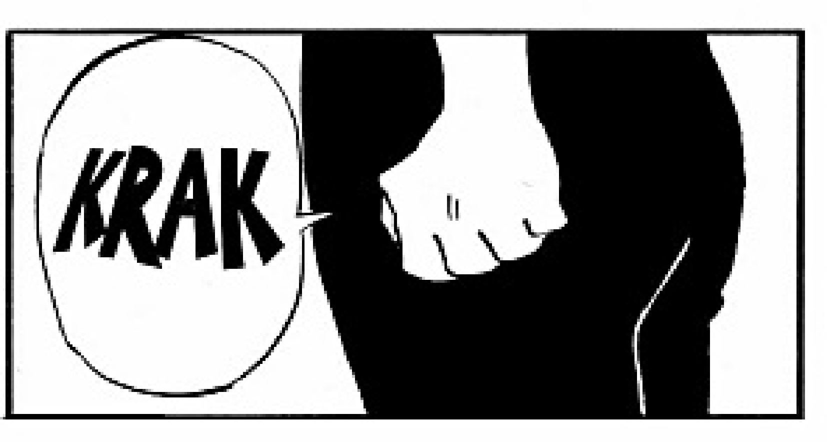

ALL RIGHT--!
FOR STARTERS, AT LEAST I CAN CATCH UP WITH SASUKE!
GRR
RRRR
AND I WILL!!



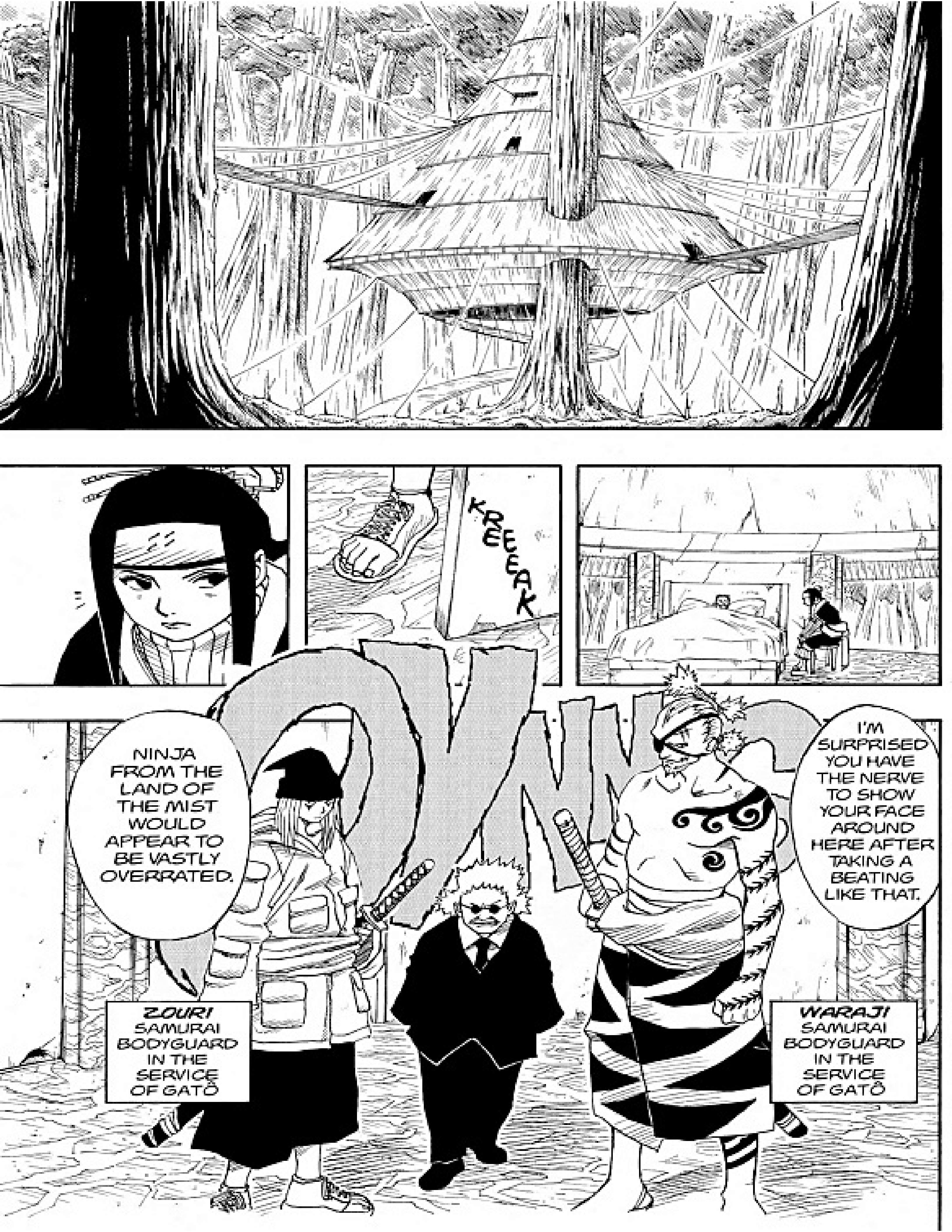

...


HAH!!
THEY'RE WASTING THEIR TIME...


SKUF


KRAK




KREEEAK
I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AFTER TAKING A BEATING LIKE THAT.
NINJA FROM THE LAND OF THE MIST WOULD APPEAR TO BE VASTLY OVERRATED.
WARAJI SAMURAI BODYGUARD IN THE SERVICE OF GATŌ
ZOURI SAMURAI BODYGUARD IN THE SERVICE OF GATŌ


...
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
YOU CAN'T EVEN CLEAN UP FOR YOUR MISERABLE SUBORDINATES. "DEMON"... YEAH RIGHT!
POK
RRRRR
SO...
TAK TAK
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU TWO...
SHFF
ARE THEY GOING TO ATTACK...?
NOTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?


GRAB
!
NO LAST WORDS?
AAARGH!!!
DON'T DEFILE LORD ZABUZA WITH YOUR TOUCH.
HOW DARE YOU?!

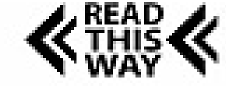
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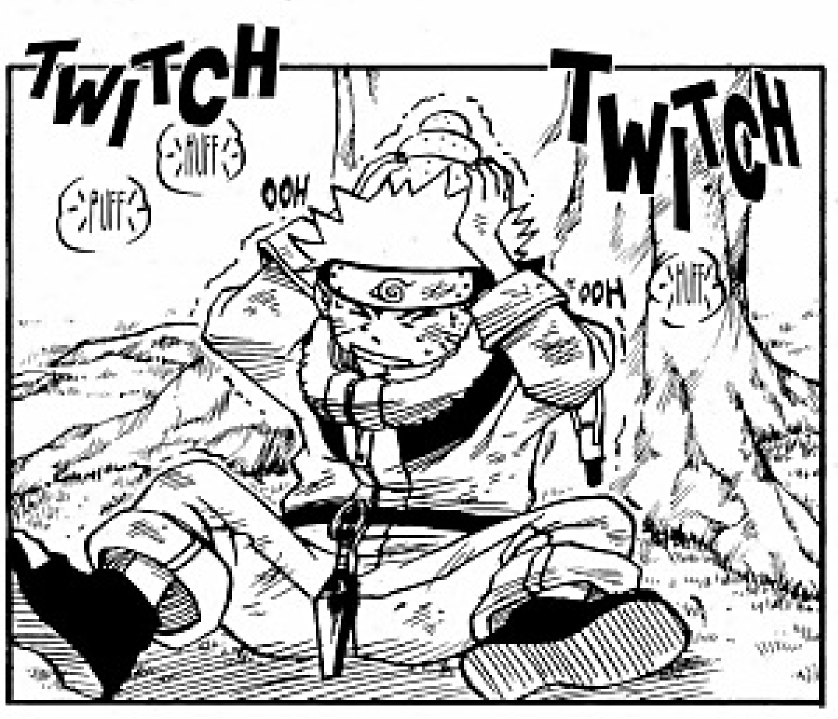

N-NO...
HE DIDN'T EVEN SEEM TO MOVE...!


YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT...
... WHEN I'M ANGRY.

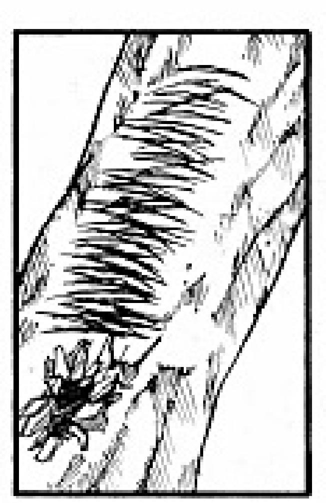

HE'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER...
TH-THERE HAD BETTER NOT BE ANY MORE MISTAKES.
I'M GOING
MY- SWORD...
SHF
KLANG
I-IF YOU FAIL AGAIN, DON'T THINK YOU CAN COME BACK HERE!
SLAM
SIGH
HAKU... THERE WAS NO NEED FOR YOU TO...
I KNOW...
BUT IT'S TOO SOON TO FINISH GATÔ OFF.
IF WE CAUSE A COMMOTION WHERE WE ARE, WE MIGHT FIND OURSELVES ON THE RUN FROM THEM AGAIN.
FOR NOW, LET'S BE PATIENT.
AHHH..
...YES!

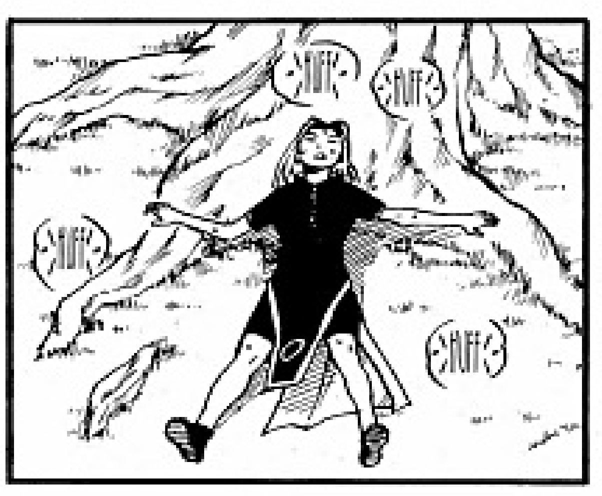












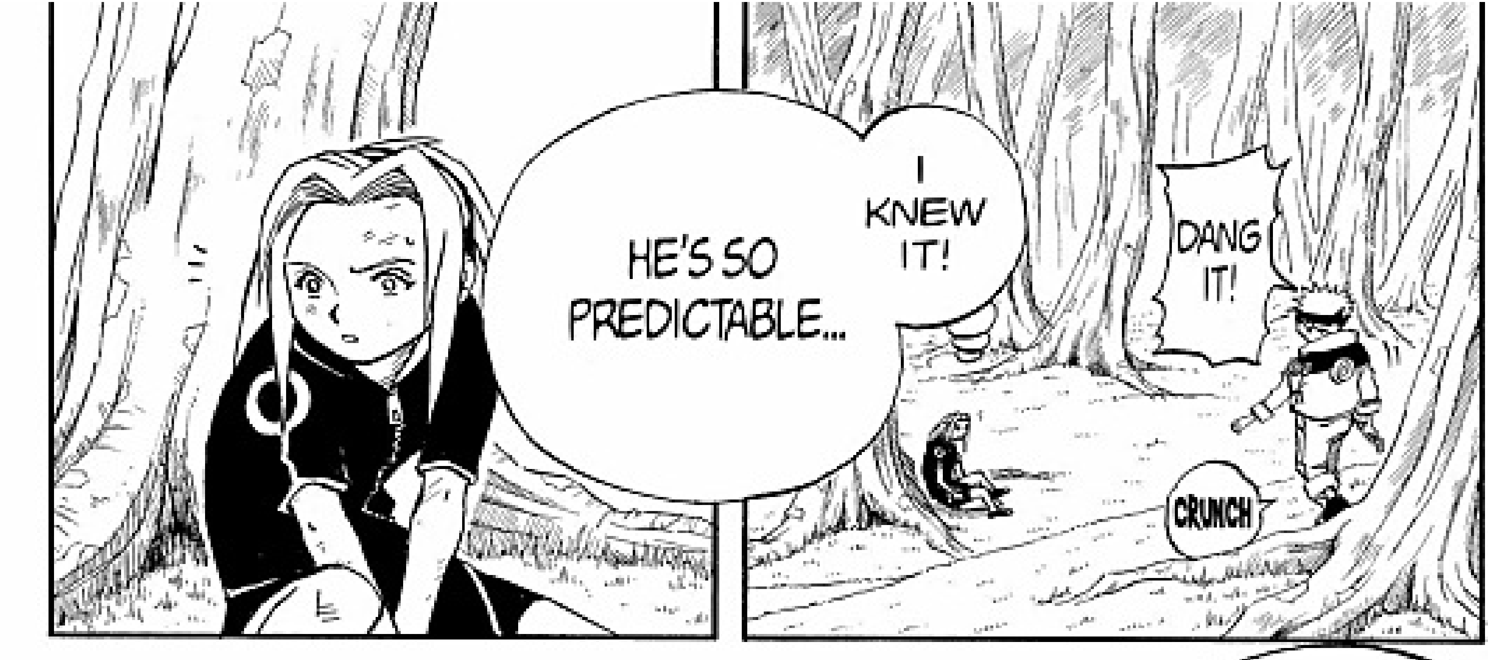
...I'M... EXHAUSTED!

THE BOYS HAVE SO MUCH STAMINA...

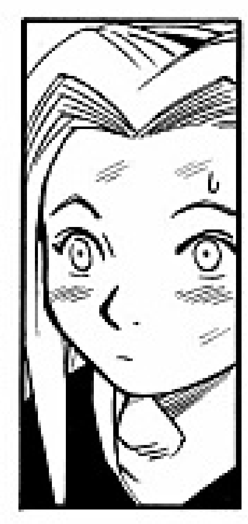
BUT NARUTO HASN'T IMPROVED ONE BIT!

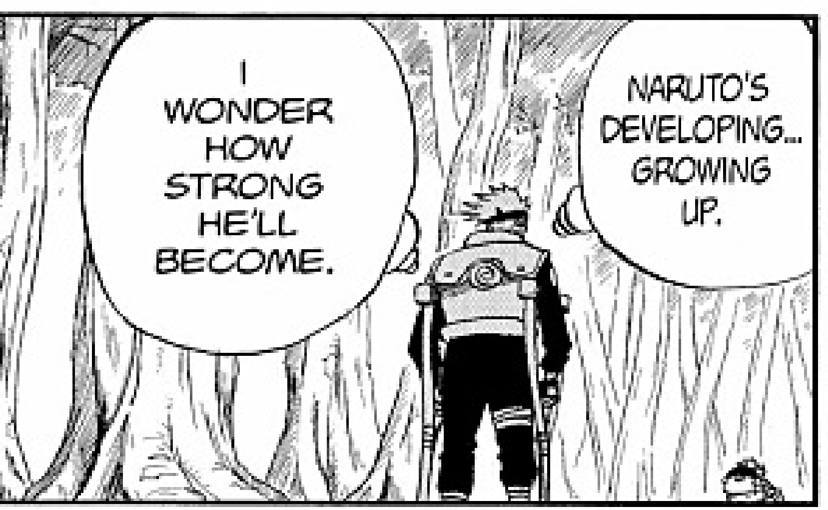
NOW HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A TANTRUM AND QUIT!

DAMN!









IF HE ONLY KNEW!

HIS LATENT ABILITIES DWARF EVEN THOSE OF SASUKE...

...AND, PERHAPS MINE, AS WELL!

THAT WOULD BE A MARVEL... AND A PLEASURE!

A boy who is as isolated and lonely as Naruto.

EARLY CHARACTER DESIGNS



This was the original design for the character of Sasuke. It's hardly changed at all over time.

The main difference is the absence of the talisman he wore around his neck. In general, whenever I come up with a new character, my initial impulse is so use as much line and ornamentation as possible until the visual concept is in danger of becoming lost amid the busy, little details.

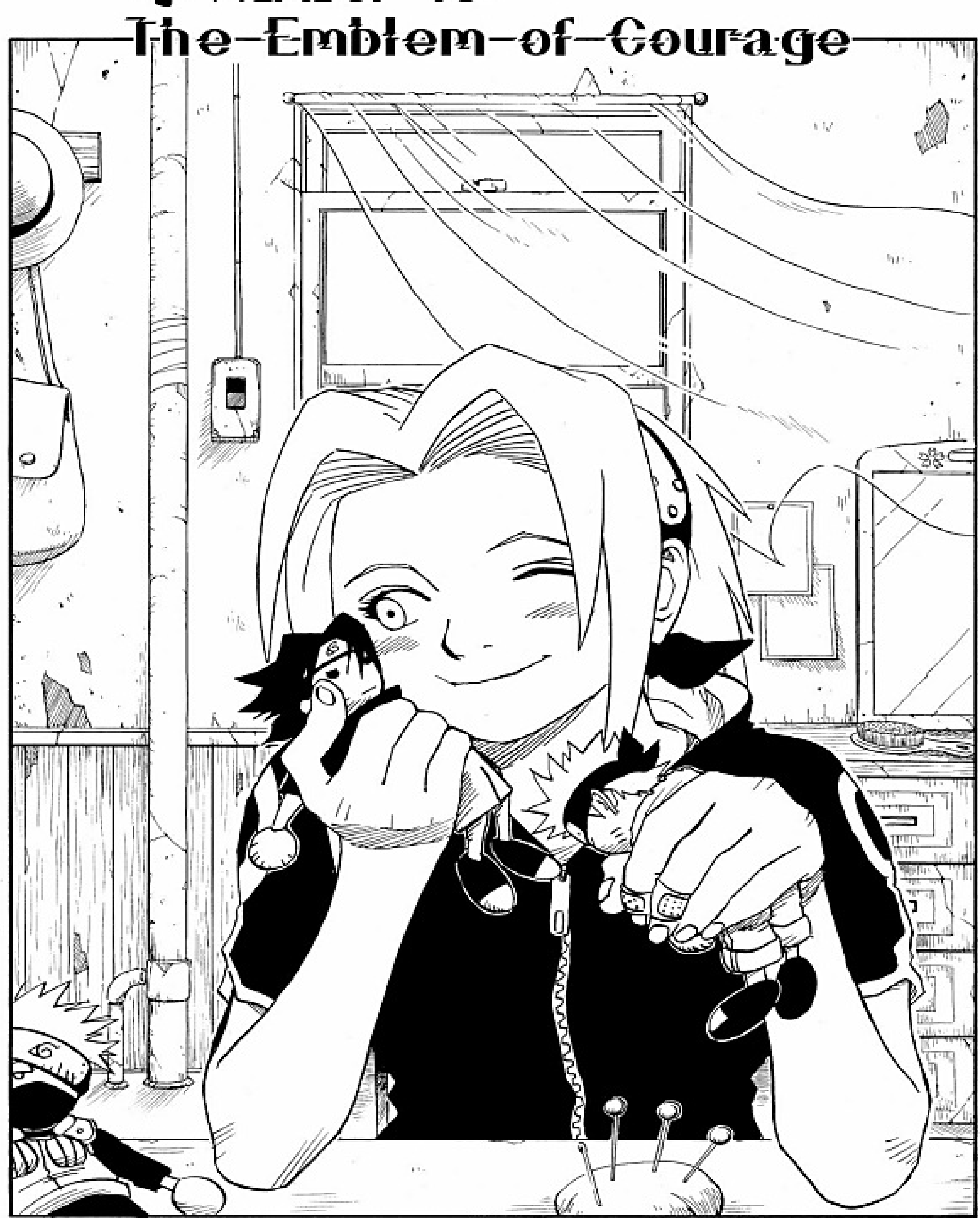
This is especially true of principal characters. I get so caught up in what I'm doing with them, I make things much too difficult for myself; until I finally have the sense to step back and ask myself, "Am I really going to be able to draw such a fussy, complicated character over and over, panel after panel, and issue after issue, week in and week out?"

There was far too much going on visually with Sasuke, and too many lines overall, so I simplified him into a good, basic contrast to Naruto's visual image.

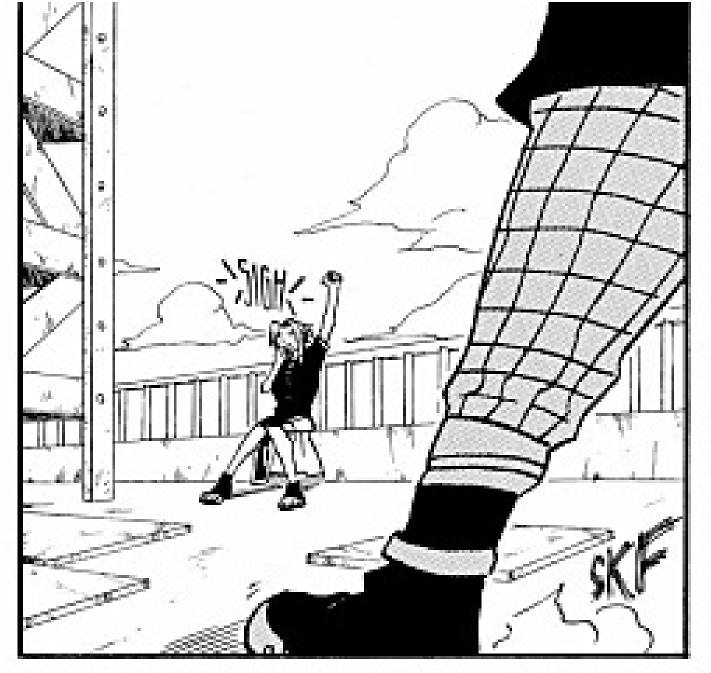
Sasuke is a particular challenge for me to draw even now, because he is a young and rather pretty boy, but if I'm not careful he loses his youthful quality and I end up drawing him like a much older boy or a grown man. I've never had a character like him in one of my comics before—that kind of boy on the cusp of manhood, who's somehow mature and handsome beyond his years.

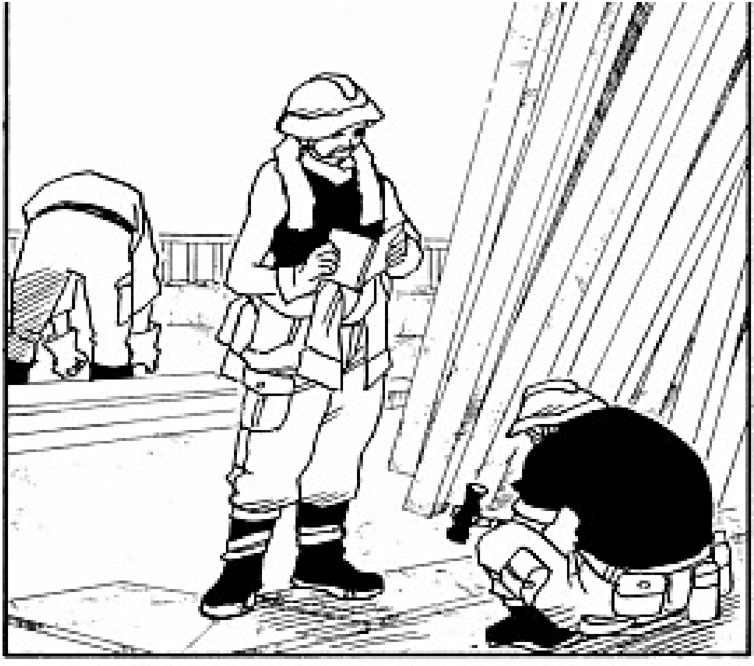
Keeping the visual consistently right makes him the character who takes the most work and energy from me. Maybe that's why he's become my favorite character.

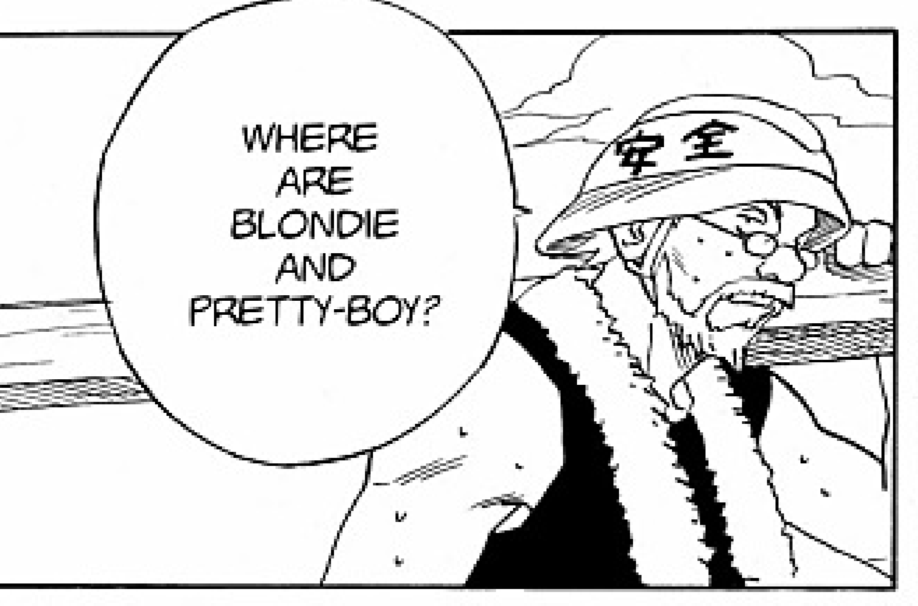
Number 19: The Emblem of Courage



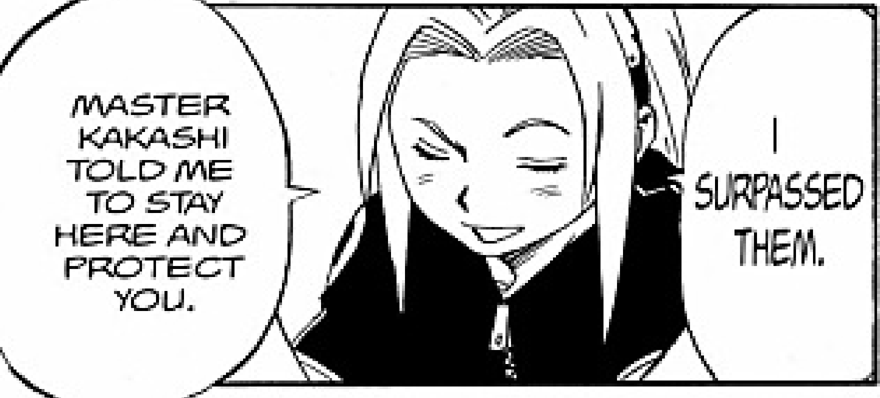

YAWWWN
BORRRING!
KLONK
KLONK
BAM
BAM
RATCH
RATCH

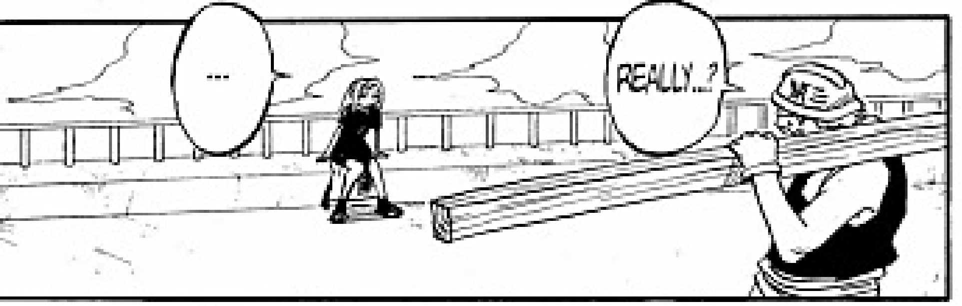

SIGH
SKF




WHERE ARE BLONDIE AND PRETTY-BOY?
安全

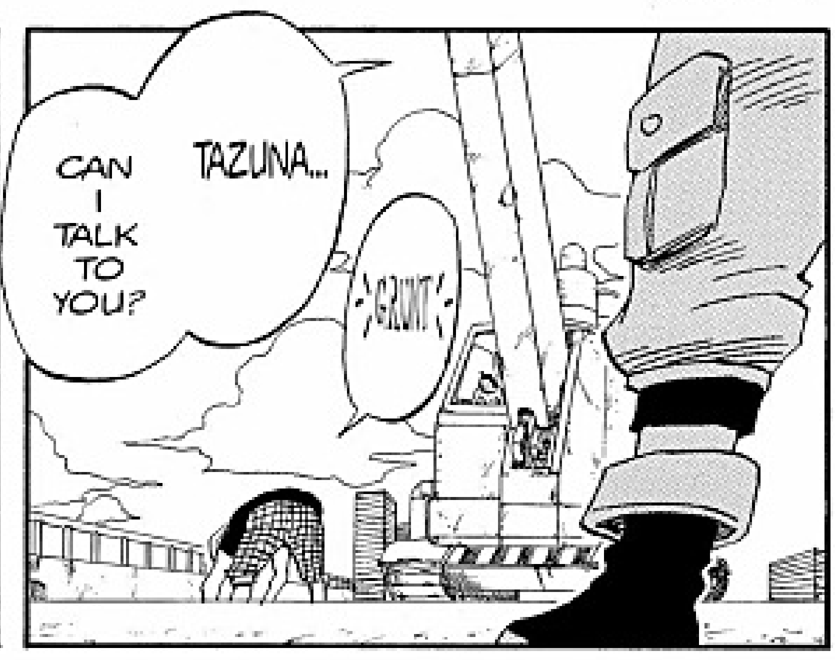

ALL ALONE AND LONESOME?


MASTER KAKASHI TOLD ME TO STAY HERE AND PROTECT YOU.
I SURPASSED THEM.


...
REALLY...?

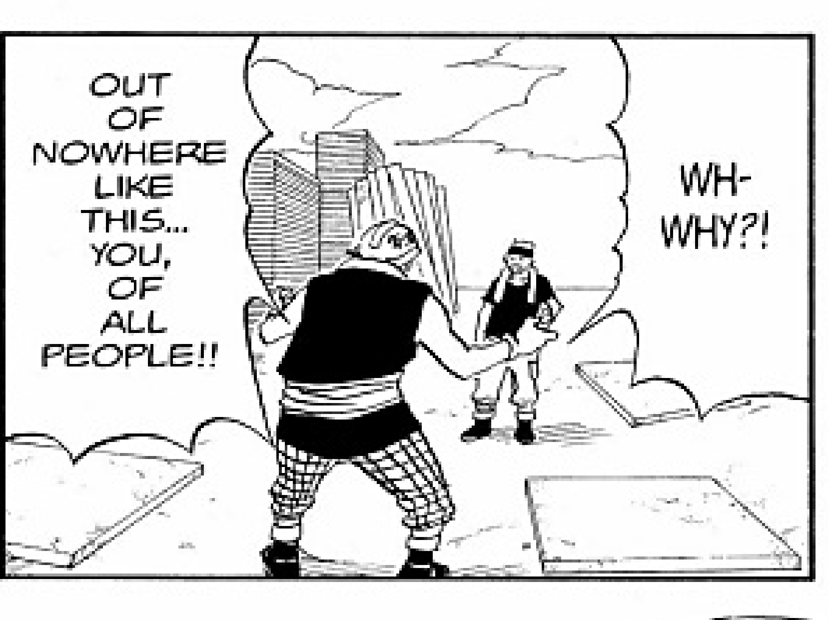

TRAINING.
THEN WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THEM?


READ THIS WAY

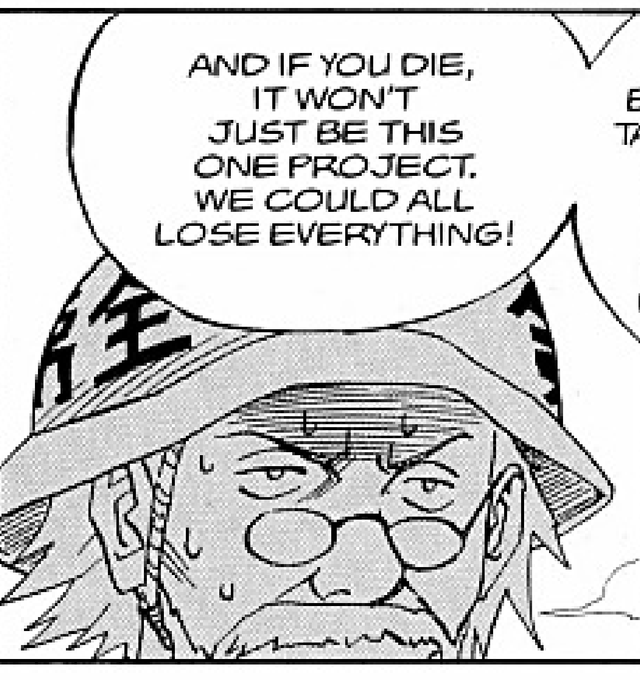

TAZUNA...
CAN I TALK TO YOU?
GRUNT


HUNH?
WHAT'S WRONG, GIICHI?

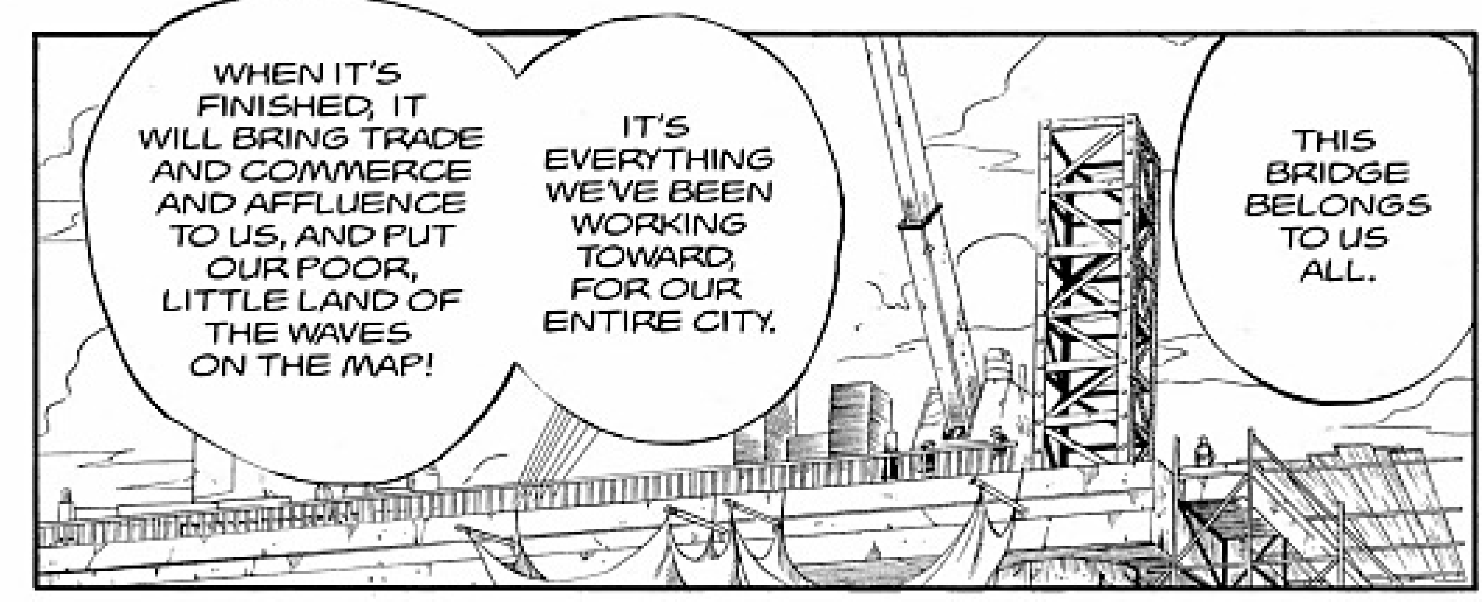

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER... THIS BRIDGE WE'RE WORKING ON...
I WANT OFF THE JOB!


WH-WHY?!
OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE THIS... YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE!!


TAZUNA! WE GO BACK A LONG WAY.


I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THIS RISK. GATÔ WILL TAKE OUT A CONTRACT ON US IF WE DON'T STOP!
AND IF YOU DIE, IT WON'T JUST BE THIS ONE PROJECT. WE COULD ALL LOSE EVERYTHING!

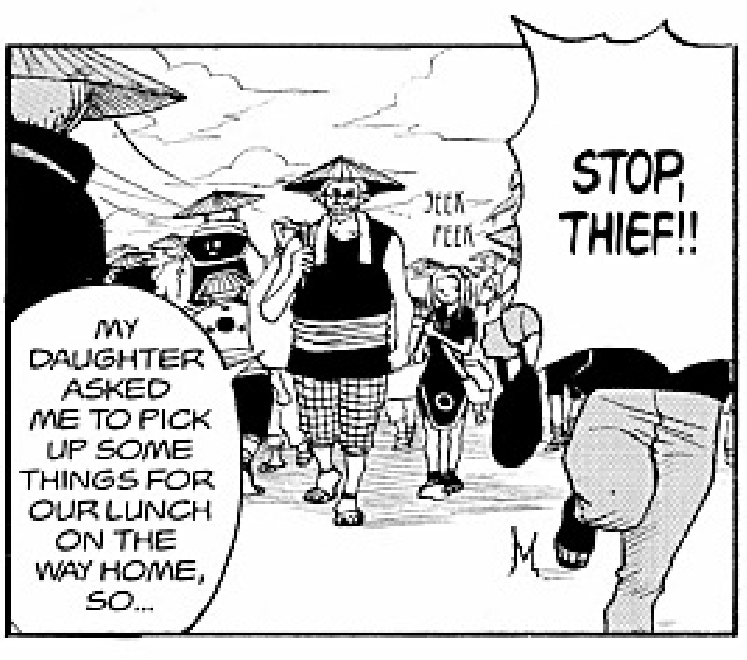
I CAN'T DO THAT.
...
THE BRIDGE ISN'T WORTH IT.
PLEASE, JUST GIVE IT UP...

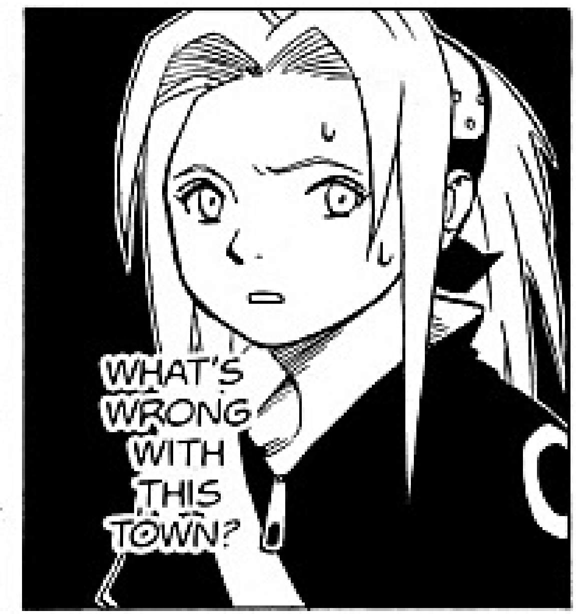


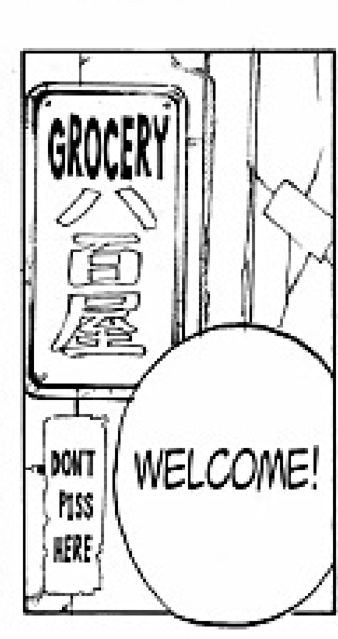




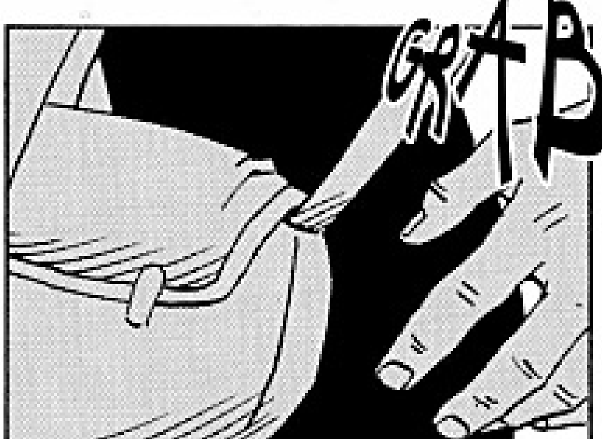

RUSH
RUSSH
WILL DO ANY JOB YOU WANT


STOP, THIEF!!
PEEK PEEK
MY DAUGHTER ASKED ME TO PICK UP SOME THINGS FOR OUR LUNCH ON THE WAY HOME, SO...


HERE WE ARE!
HE'S JUST A KID...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS TOWN?

THIS STORE HAS ALMOST NOTHING IN IT!

GROCERY
八百屋
DON'T PISS HERE
WELCOME!

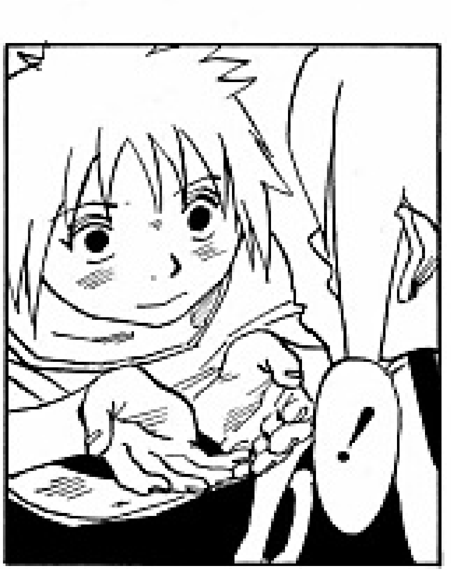
HUH?
!!

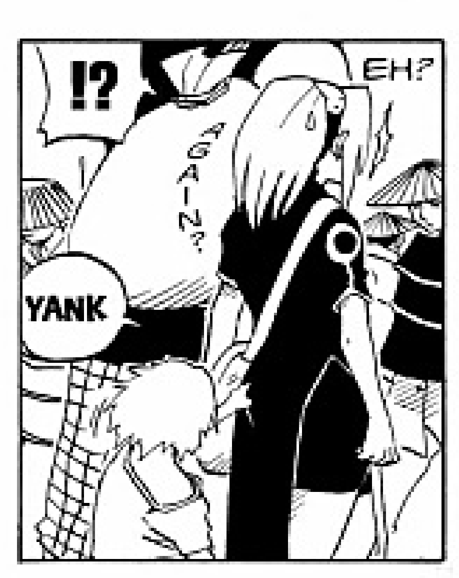

GRAB

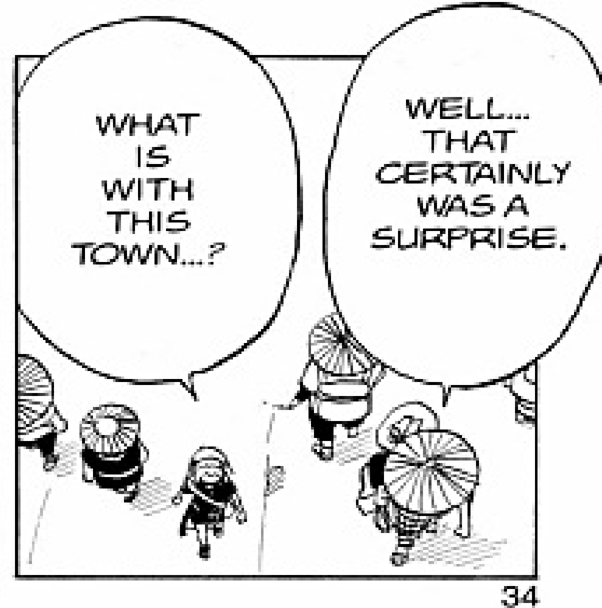

PERVERT-!!

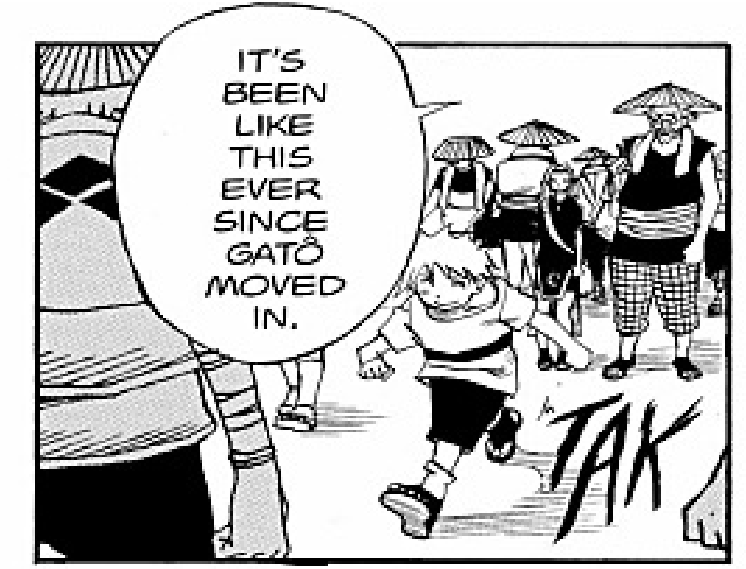
N-NO...

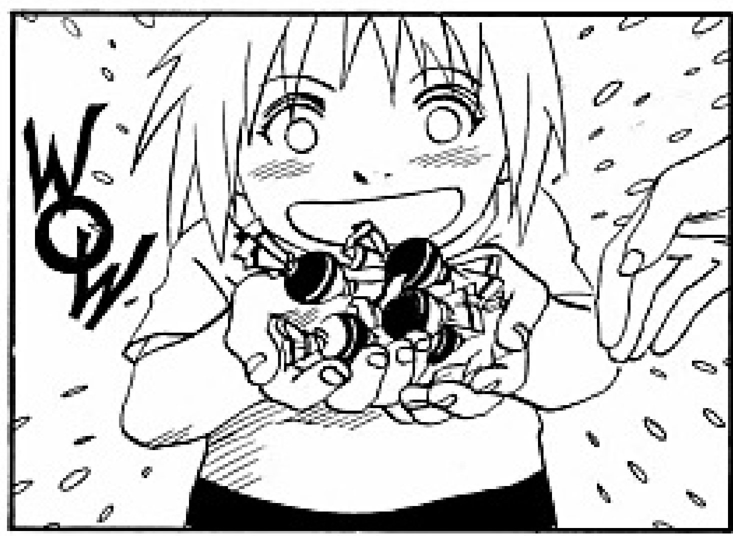
HYAAH--!!

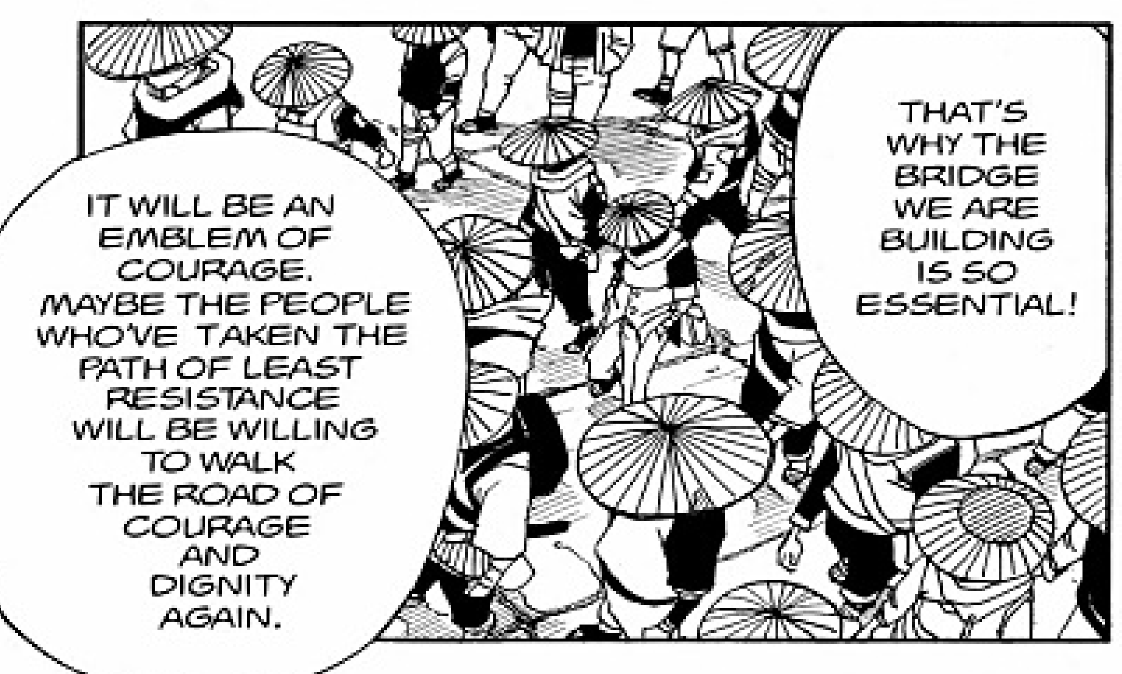






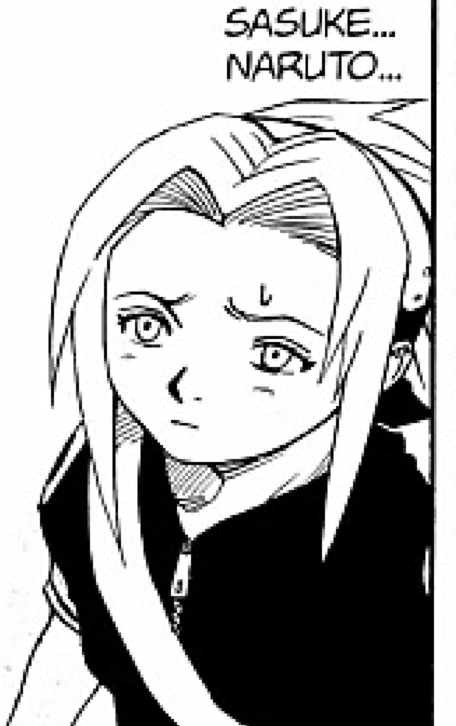

IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE GATÔ MOVED IN.
TAK


WOW


THAT'S WHY THE BRIDGE WE ARE BUILDING IS SO ESSENTIAL!
IT WILL BE AN EMBLEM OF COURAGE. MAYBE THE PEOPLE WHO'VE TAKEN THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE WILL BE WILLING TO WALK THE ROAD OF COURAGE AND DIGNITY AGAIN.

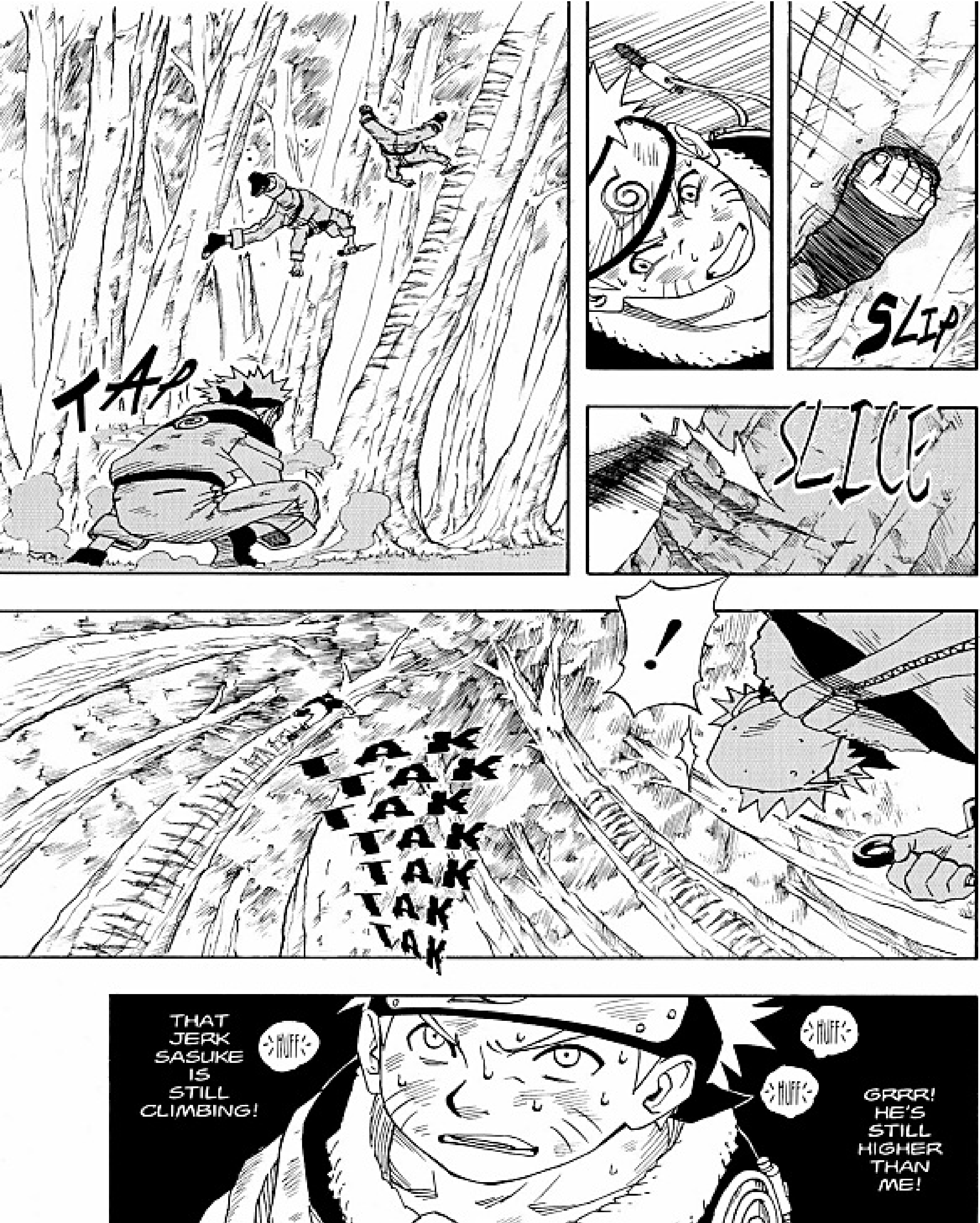

WE'VE BECOME A CITY OF SLACKERS, COWARDS, AND FOOLS!
...


IF WE CAN ONLY COMPLETE IT...
I TRULY BELIEVE THAT OUR CITY AND OUR PEOPLE CAN BE WHAT THEY ONCE WERE AGAIN!


SASUKE... NARUTO...

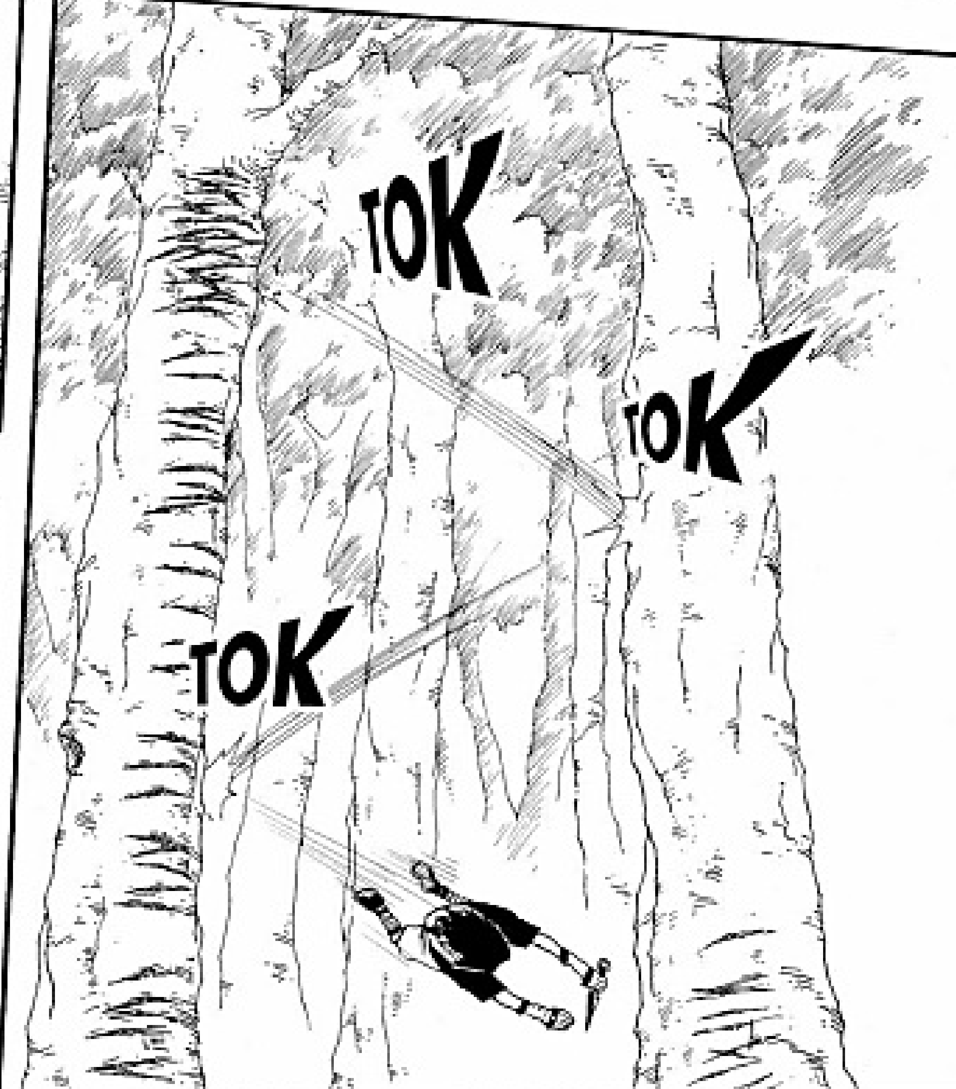


YAAAAH!!
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK



SLIP
TAP
SLICE
!
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
GRRR! HE'S STILL HIGHER THAN ME!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THAT JERK SASUKE IS STILL CLIMBING!

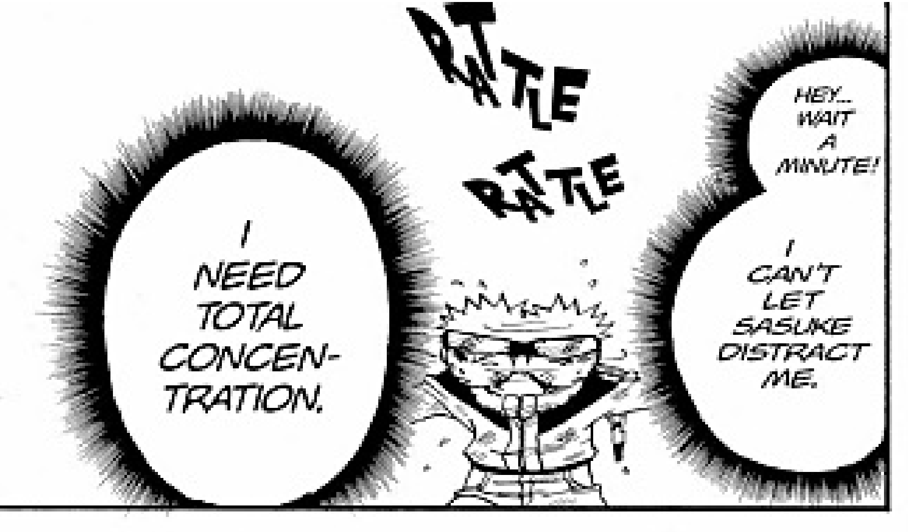
SLIP
SLASH





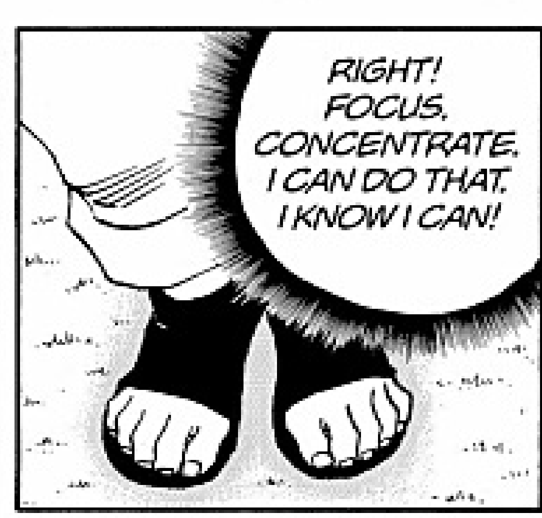



DARN IT--!
THUK

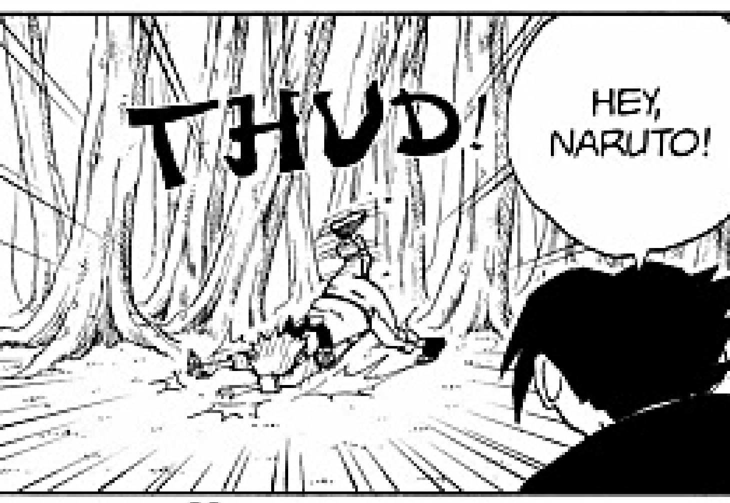

HEY... WAIT A MINUTE!
I CAN'T LET SASUKE DISTRACT ME.
RATTLE
RATTLE
I NEED TOTAL CONCEN-TRATION.


HEY! SAKURA! COULD YOU HELP ME GET THE HANG OF THIS?
YOU'RE HOPELESS!


NOW, PAY ATTENTION. IT TAKES MENTAL ENERGY TO GENERATE AND MANIPULATE CHAKRA, SO IF YOU GET ALL STRESSED OUT OR DISTRACTED, YOU CAN'T DO IT.
TAKE IT EASY. RELAX AND FOCUS ON THE TREE UNTIL YOU CAN FEEL HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE ENERGY YOU'LL NEED TO CENTER IN THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET.


RIGHT! FOCUS. CONCENTRATE. I CAN DO THAT. I KNOW I CAN!


THIS TIME FOR SURE!


HEY, NARUTO!
THUD!

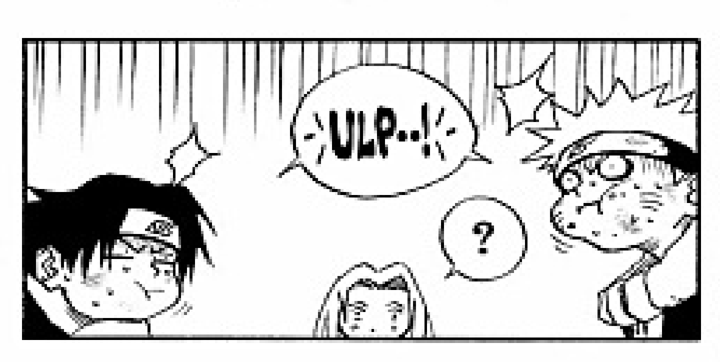


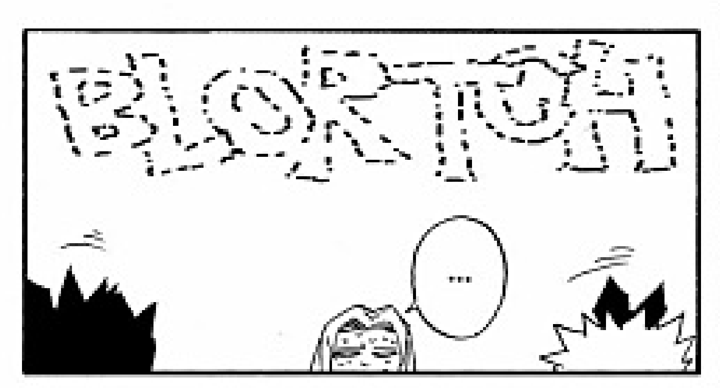
YOU... YOU... YOU--!!
WANNA FIGHT?
YOU'RE BREAKING MY CONCENTRATION! STOP BUGGING ME!
WHAT?!
...
UHHH... WELL....
WH-... WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
WHY'S HE WANT TO TALK TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WH...
WHAT DID SAKURA SAY TO YOU...?
!?
YEAH!!!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
OW!
...
SHHH

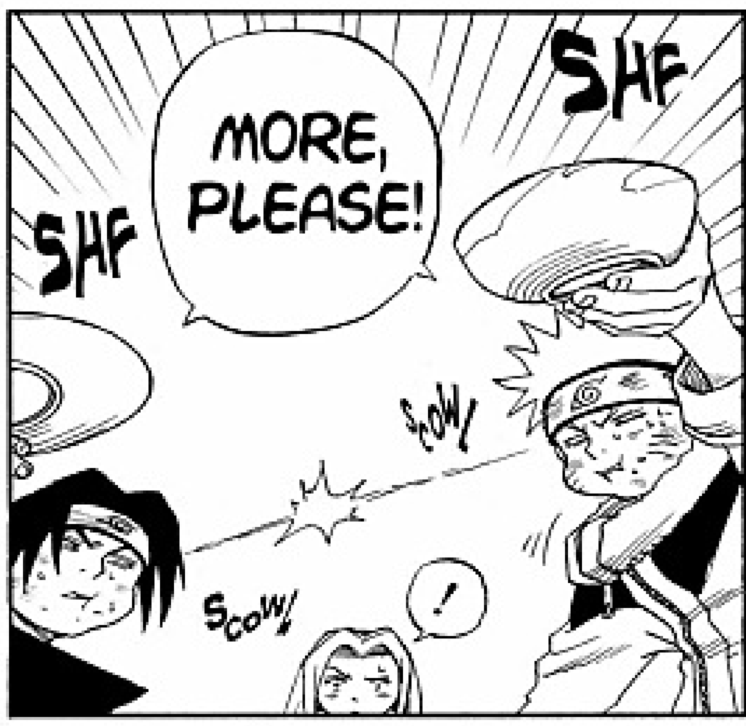

MUNCH
MUNCH


GULP


I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SHARED A MEAL WITH SO MANY PEOPLE!!
BOY, THIS IS REAL FUN!


ULP..!
?


BLORTCH
...

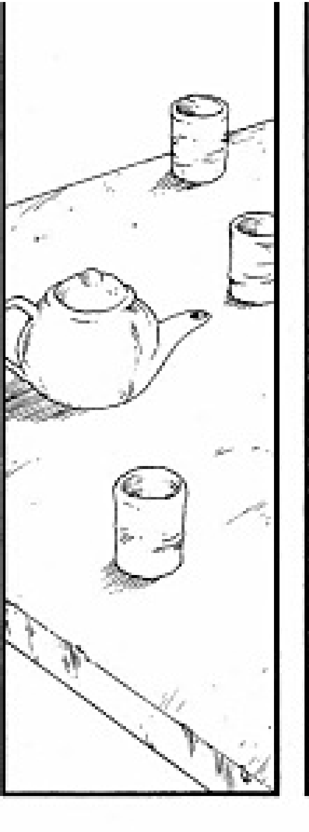

SHF
MORE, PLEASE!
SHF
SCOW!
SCOW!
!

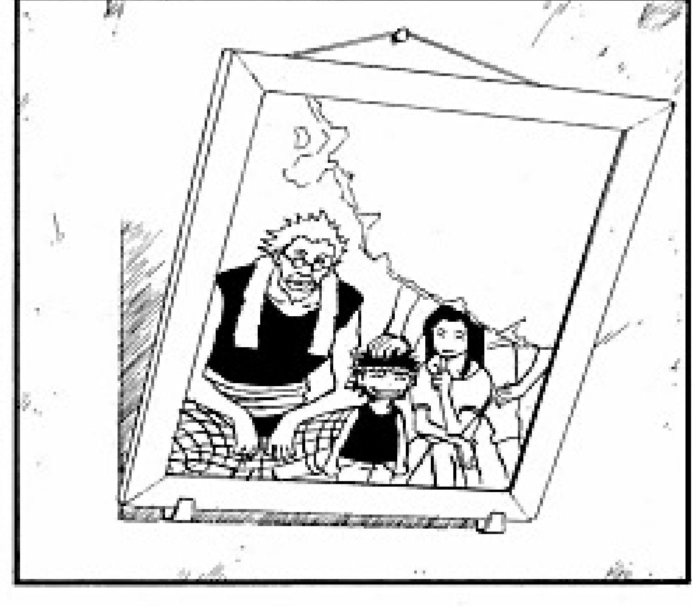

...NO, I WANNA EAT!

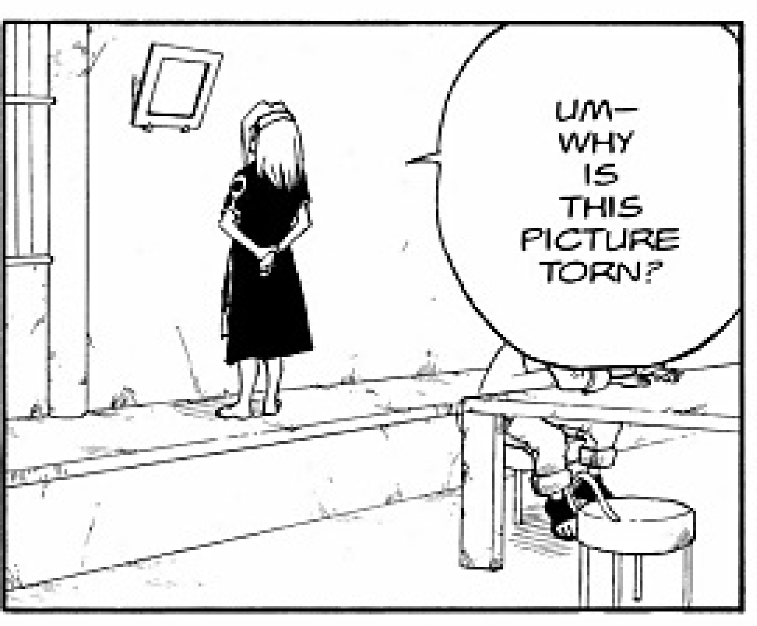

STOP EATING IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA HURL IT BACK UP!
SMAK

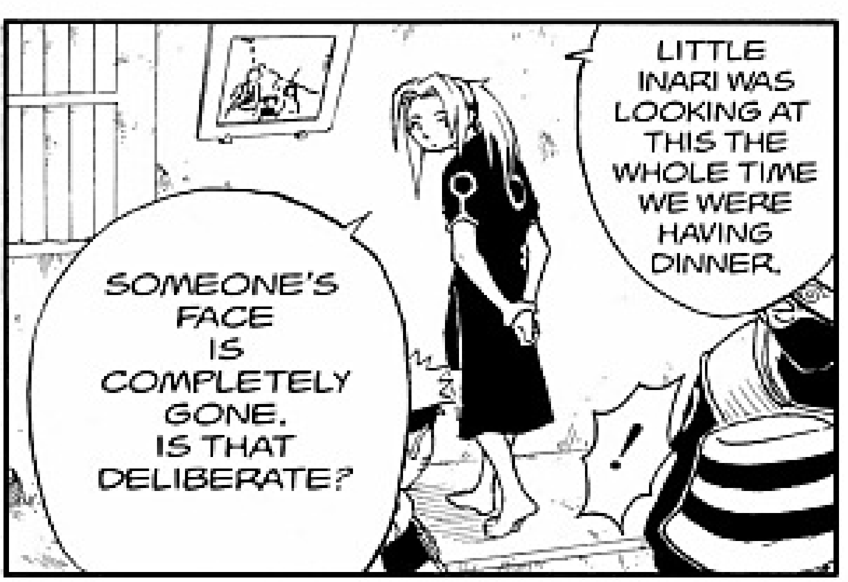

BECAUSE EVEN IF WE MAKE OURSELVES SICK TO DO IT, WE HAVE TO EAT IF WE WANT TO GET STRONG!
HEH...

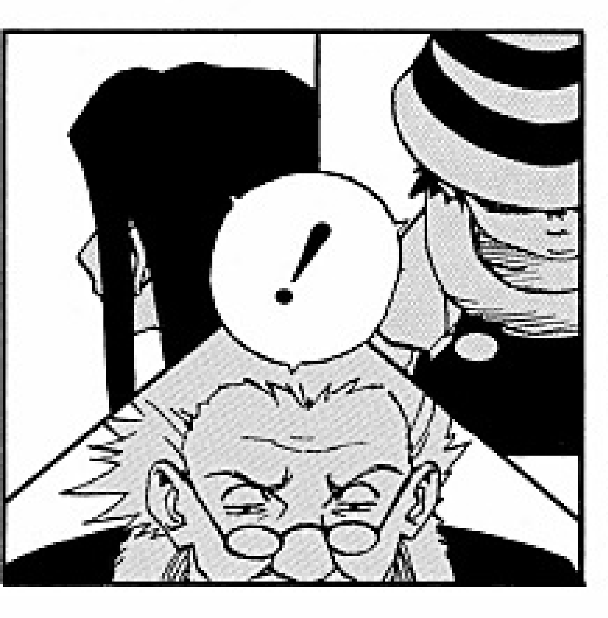

WHATEVER IT TAKES!
THROWING UP, HOWEVER, IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SITUATION...♡





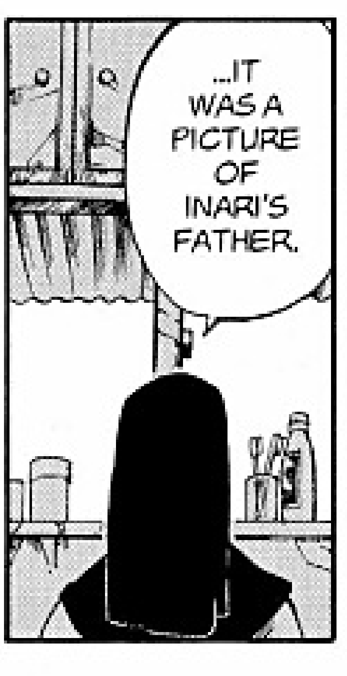

UM–WHY IS THIS PICTURE TORN?


LITTLE INARI WAS LOOKING AT THIS THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE HAVING DINNER.
SOMEONE'S FACE IS COMPLETELY GONE. IS THAT DELIBERATE?
!

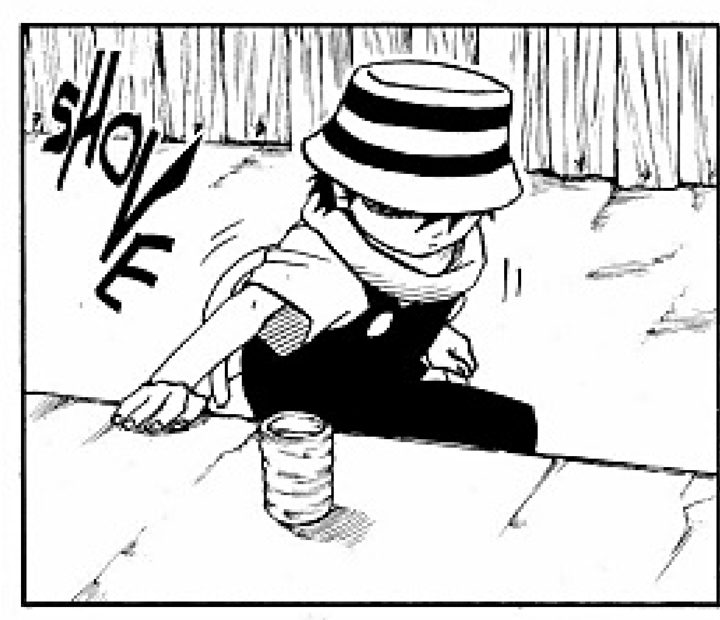

!

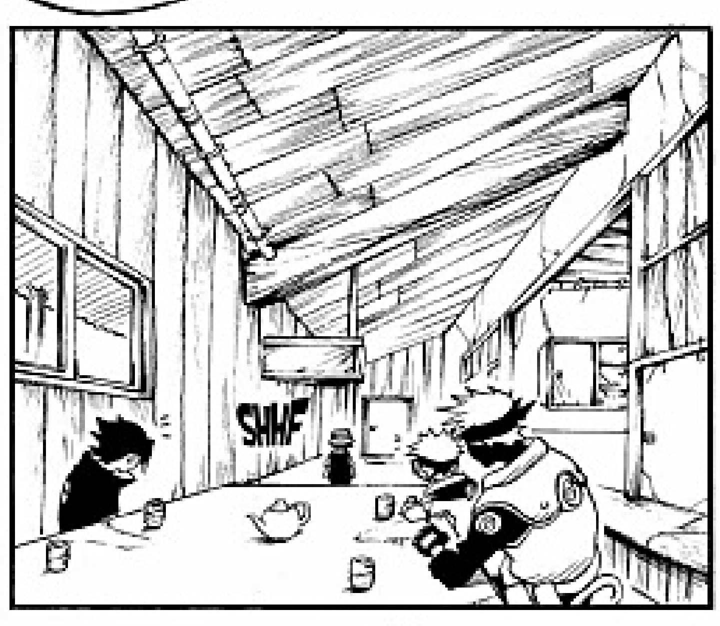

READ
THIS
WAY


...

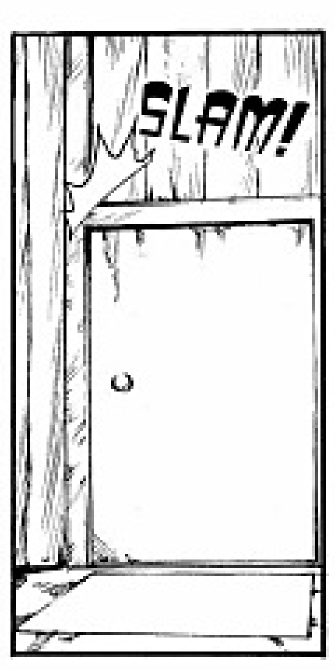

...IT WAS A PICTURE OF INARI'S FATHER.


...ONCE UPON A TIME, IF YOU WILL...
...OUR ENTIRE CITY CALLED HIM A HERO.


SHOVE


SHHF

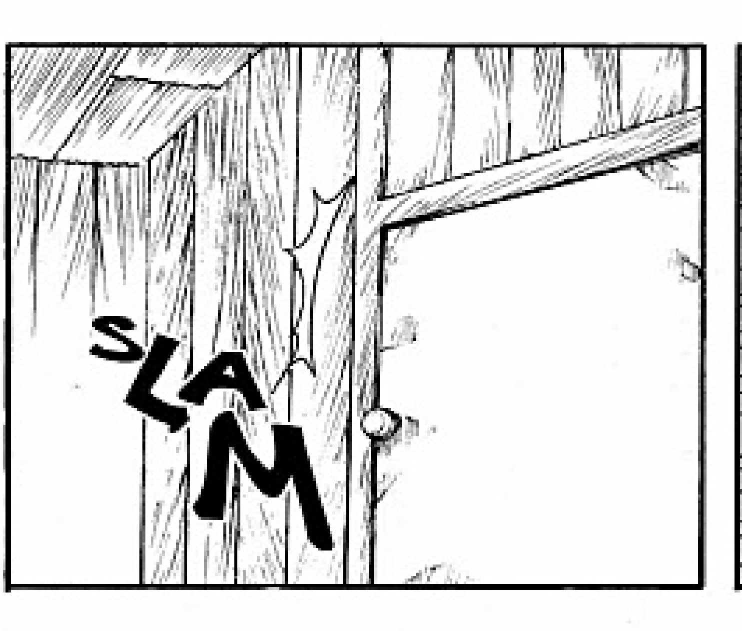

INARI! ...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

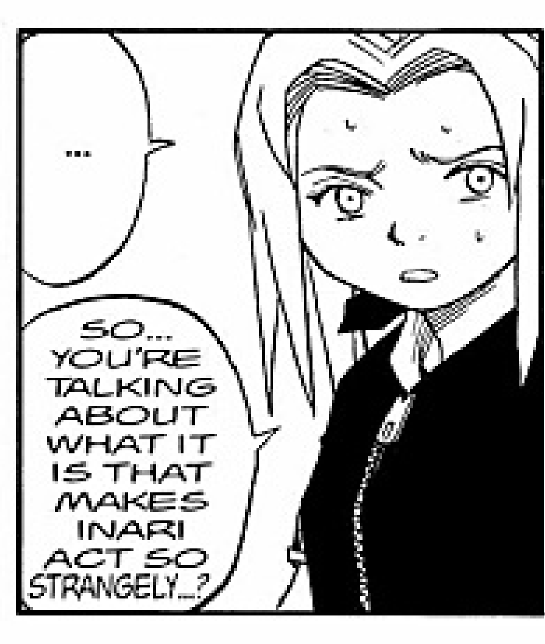

SLAM!

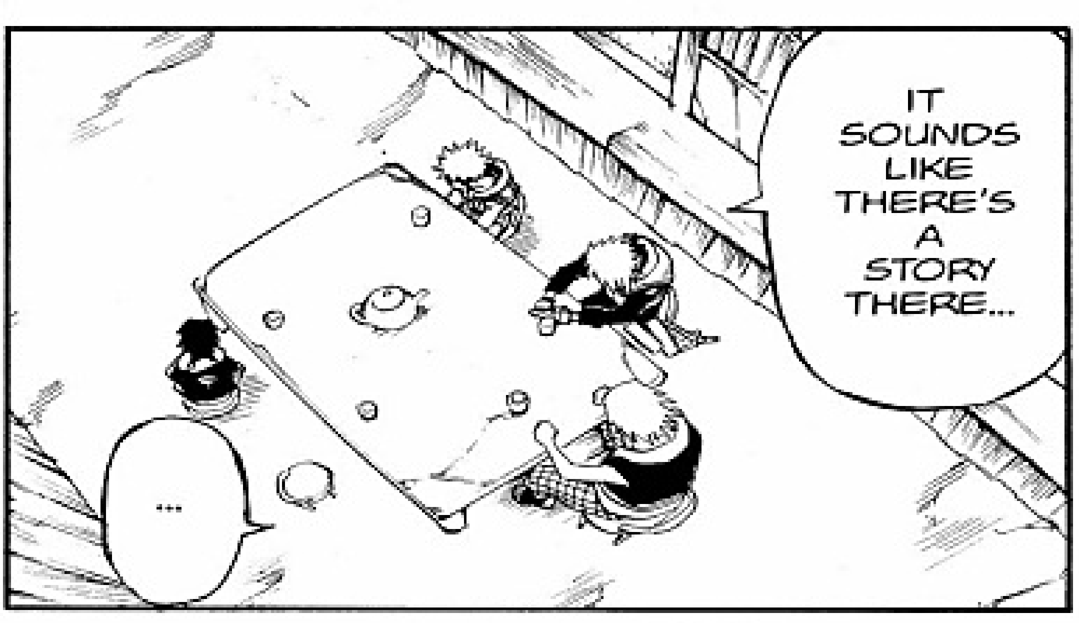

INARI!


READ THIS WAY


FATHER! I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN NOT TO MENTION THAT IN FRONT OF MY SON!!


SLAM


...
SO... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES INARI ACT SO STRANGELY...?


IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A STORY THERE...
...

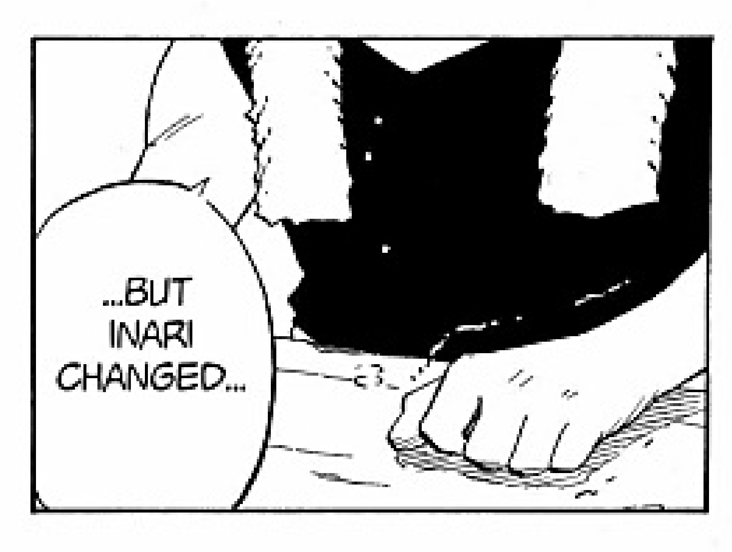

...THE MAN IN THE PICTURE WAS NOT INARI'S BIRTH FATHER...
BUT THEY WERE AS LOVING AND CLOSE AS ANY BIOLOGICAL FATHER AND SON COULD HAVE BEEN.
INARI WAS SUCH A HAPPY, LAUGHING CHILD BACK THEN...











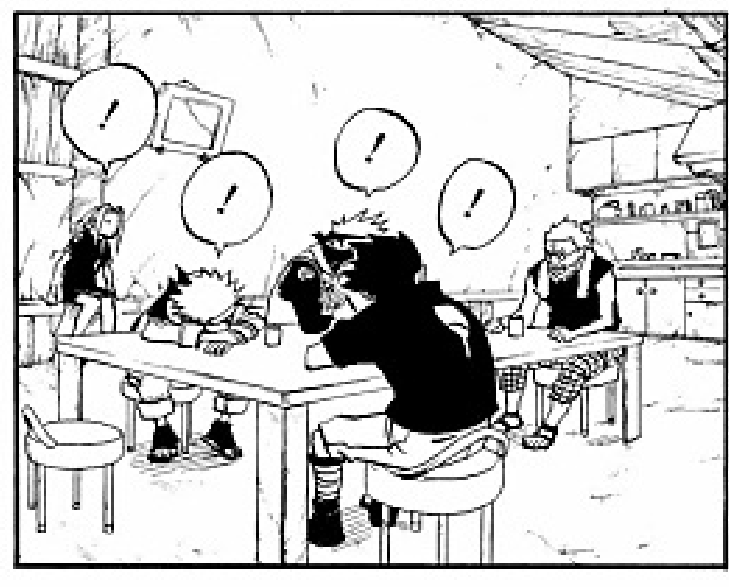
...AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FATHER.

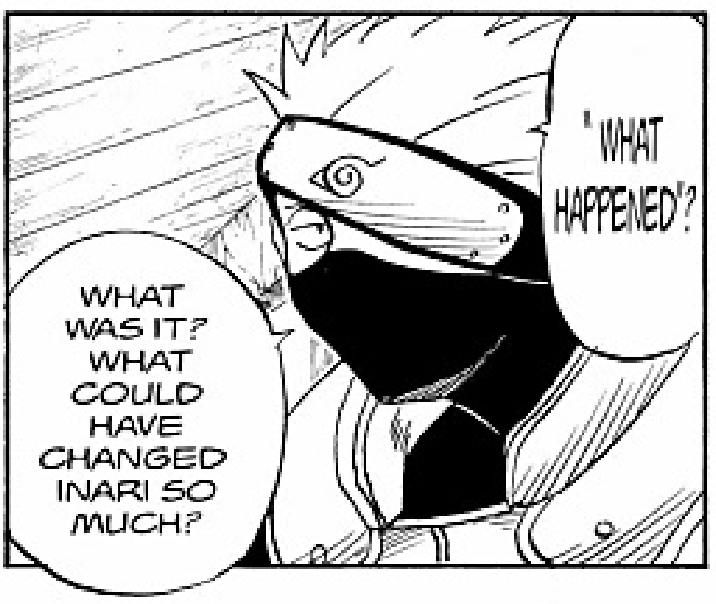


Number 20: The Land That Had a Hero...!!

OUR PEOPLE - AND ESPECIALLY LITTLE INARI - WERE ROBBED OF THE VERY MEANING OF COURAGE...

...BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.












IT WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO...
HERE, POOCHIE!!
...THAT INARI AND THE MAN FIRST MET.
NOT ANY MORE! STARTING NOW, HIS NAME IS SHOOTING STAR... AND HE BELONGS TO ME!!
HE'S NOT A SHOOTING STAR!! THAT'S MY POOCHIE!!
GIVE HIM BACK!!
RAR RA!
POOCHIE'S MY FRIEND!
YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM!!
SHUT UP--!!
SLASH
...
NYAH!!
PLOP
WOOF!?
HAH!


SPLOOSH
!!
SPLASH
SPLASH
POOCHIE--!!
YIPE! YIPE!
IT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NOT HANDING HIM OVER WHEN I ORDERED.
WHO CARES ABOUT A DUMB DOG, ANYWAY?
HEY!! LET INARI GO!
YOU CAN'T JUST DROWN MY DOG!
SPLASH
WELL, IF THE PUPPY MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU...
... BETTER GO SAVE HIM!!
BUT...
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM JUST DIE?!!


SPLASH SPLASH
BUT... BUT...
POOCHIE'S MY BEST FRIEND!!
OF COURSE NOT!!!
HEY!! IF YOU OWN HIM, WHY AREN'T YOU DIVING IN?
TAK
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM..!!
I'M SORRY, POOCHIE...
SHUDDER SHUDDER
BOOT
AAGGH!
SPLOOSH
THIS AIN'T RIGHT, AKANE. WHAT IF HE CAN'T SWIM?
GAKK--! H-HELP! HELP ME!


AW, JUST LEAVE HIM!
B-... BUT...
OR DO YOU WANT TO BE THE NEXT ONE PERFORMING A LITTLE PET RESCUE?
GLUB!!
!
WOOF!!
P...POOCHIE--?!
FLAP
FLOP
PADDLE
PADDLE
I-I DON'T WANNA DIE...
S-SOME-BODY, HELP...!!
SPLASH
BUT, I DIGRESS...
P-P-P--!!!
NECESSITY, AND THE NEARNESS OF HIS OWN DEATH FINALLY TAUGHT POOCHIE HOW TO DOG PADDLE...
P-POOCHIE--!!
hum-de-dum
SPLASH



WOOF!
SHOOTING STAR'S GETTING AWAY. GO AFTER HIM!!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
WHAT--!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
I'M ...
DYING...
THIS IS IT...
GLUB
I-...IT HURTS
GLUR
POOCHIE--!!
GLEAM
!!
MMMF
ARE YOU AWAKE, SON?

KRACKLE
KRACKLE
I REALLY LET THOSE PUNKS WHO WERE PICKING ON YOU HAVE IT GOOD.
HERE, EAT!

...GOD?
NO... MAYBE NOT...
...
DID YOU... RESCUE ME, MISTER?!
...YOU'VE HAD A PRETTY ROUGH TIME OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU?!






I WAS TOO SCARED TO EVEN MOVE.
!
...
I WANTED TO RESCUE HIM...
BUT... I GUESS I WASN'T BRAVE ENOUGH.
PAT
...OF COURSE NOT... ANY KID YOUR AGE WOULD HAVE BEEN TERRIFIED.
PAT
BUT KEEP IN MIND, SON...
...WHEN YOU DO BECOME A MAN, YOU HAVE TO WALK A ROAD THAT WON'T LEAVE YOU FILLED WITH REGRETS.
HUH...?
?

IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...

NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL OR HOW HARD IT SEEMS, NO MATTER WHAT IT MAY COST YOU, YOU HAVE TO HANG IN THERE...

FLEX

...AND PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT, EVEN AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!

WOW!

IF YOU DO THAT, THEN EVEN IF YOU DIE IN THE ATTEMPT, AT LEAST THE WORLD WILL BE LEFT WITH THE PROOF THAT A MAN WORTH LIVING HAD DIED!

IT'D BE LIKE YOUR LEGACY...

RIGHT?!

OKAY... I GUESS IT DOES SOUND A LITTLE CORNY, HUNH?

YEAH!!

YANK

FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, INARI'S AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION FOR KAIZA GREW AND GREW.

YANK

HIS NAME WAS KAIZA. HE WAS A FISHERMAN WHO CAME HERE FROM ABROAD TO SEEK HIS FORTUNE.

HEY! I FINALLY GOT A SMILE OUT OF YOU! NOW EAT. EAT!

OH!

IN NO TIME AT ALL, KAIZA WAS LIKE ONE OF THE FAMILY.

IT PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH INARI'S REAL FATHER HAVING DIED BEFORE THE BOY WAS OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER HIM, BUT EVEN SO... THAT BOY STUCK TO KAIZA LIKE WHITE ON RICE.

THEY WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER, LIKE ANY OTHER FATHER AND SON.

HOW IS IT GOING, YOU TWO?

I-...IT'S TERRIBLE!! KAIZA, THE RAIN'S SO HEAVY, IT'S OVERFLOWED THE RIVERBANKS AND FORCED OPEN ALL OF THE LOCKS!!

SLAM

PITTER PITTER

AND HE WAS JUST THE KIND OF MAN THIS TOWN NEEDS MORE OF!


AT THIS RATE, ALL OF SECTOR D WILL BE FLOODED!!
WHAT?!!
DADDY!!
INARI, GO TO THE BACK AND GET THE ROPES!
OKAY!
RRRUMBLE
THIS IS AWFUL—THE ONLY WAY WE COULD POSSIBLY GET THIS LOCK CLOSED IS IF WE PUT A ROPE AROUND THE ENTIRE BARRIER AND PULL IT, BUT...
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW WOULD WE GET A ROPE AROUND IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!! ANYONE WHO GOES INTO THAT TORRENT WILL BE SWEPT AWAY AND DROWNED!!
THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE WORSE IT WILL GET... AND SECTOR D IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
I'LL GO!


KAIZA!!
IT CAN'T BE DONE, MAN!!
YOU'LL BE THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY!!
DON'T RISK IT!
DADDY!!
DON'T WORRY, INARI... DADDY CAN DO ANYTHING!
TAK
PAT!
BECAUSE HE LOVES THE CITY WHERE HIS LITTLE BOY LIVES!
SKFF

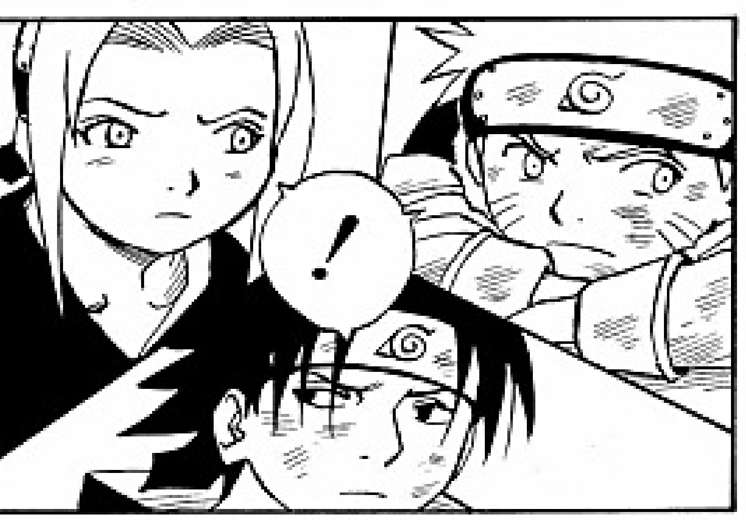


KAIZA!!
LEAP
EVEN AT THE RISK...
PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT...
IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU......
SPLASH
...OF YOUR OWN LIFE!
GO, DADDY--!!
HE'S DONE IT!!! THE ROPE'S IN PLACE!!
PULL EVERYONE. PULL!
THAT WAS WHEN...


READ THIS WAY
... PEOPLE HERE STARTED CALLING KAIZA A CHAMPION AND A HERO.
WITH A FATHER LIKE THAT, INARI COULD HOLD HIS HEAD UP HIGH.
...UNTIL GATÔ CAME TO TOWN...


...AND THE INCIDENT YOU'VE ALLUDED TO TOOK PLACE...


...


!


SO... WHAT HAPPENED?


SHUDDER
...
SHUDDER


IN FRONT OF THE ENTIRE CITY...
GATÔ HAD KAIZA PUT TO DEATH!

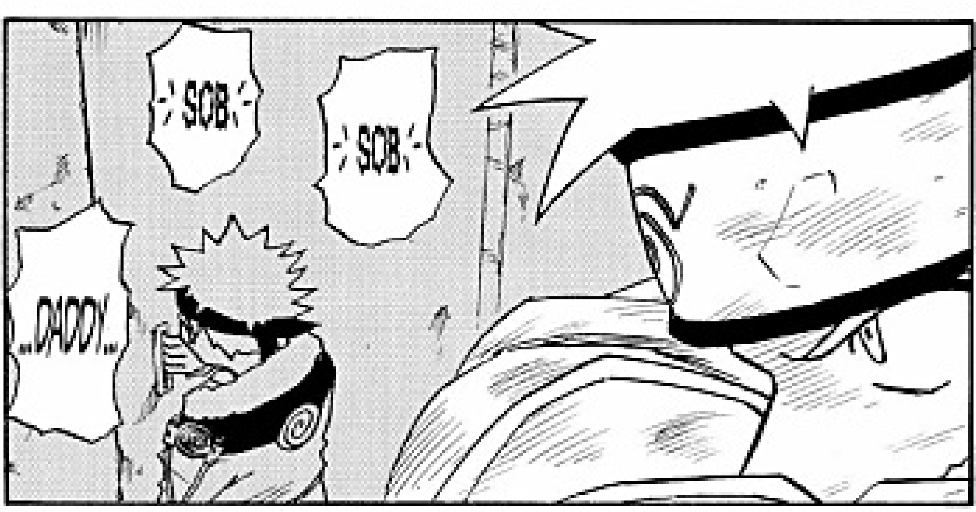

WHAT?
HE'S OPENLY DENOUNCED OUR POLICIES AND TRIED TO INCITE SABOTAGE AND RESISTANCE AGAINST US, AND DISRUPTED THE ORDER OF THIS LAND. THE PENALTY FOR ALL HIS CRIMES IS DEATH. THE SENTENCE WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT ONCE...
UHHN
...
EVERYBODY LISTEN UP! THIS MAN HAS COMMITED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM AGAINST MY COMPANY AND OUR ACTIVITIES HERE.
GASP
GASP
GASP
INARI!
DADDY!!
...TO ENSURE THAT SUCH AN AWFUL THING WILL NEVER DISTURB ANY OF US, EVER AGAIN!
RATTLE

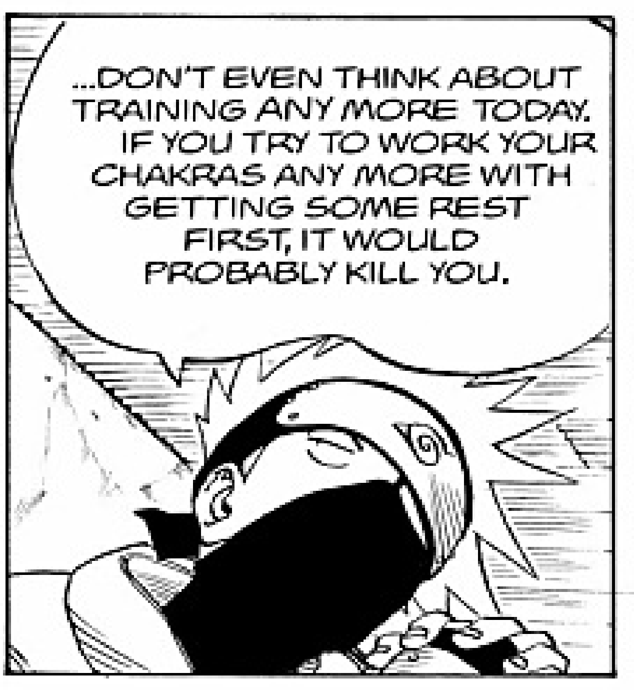

NOW!
WMMF
POK
SHING
DADDY..!!
BUT... YOU PROMISED... YOU PROMISED TO PROTECT ME!
...YOU'RE A LIAR!!
EVER SINCE THEN, INARI HAS CHANGED...
AND TSUNAMI... AND EVERYONE IN THE CITY'S CHANGED, TOO.


THERE'S NO SUCH THING!!!
"HERO"? YOU'RE DUMB!




CLATTER


SOB
SOB
...DADDY...


...DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRAINING ANY MORE TODAY. IF YOU TRY TO WORK YOUR CHAKRAS ANY MORE WITH GETTING SOME REST FIRST, IT WOULD PROBABLY KILL YOU.

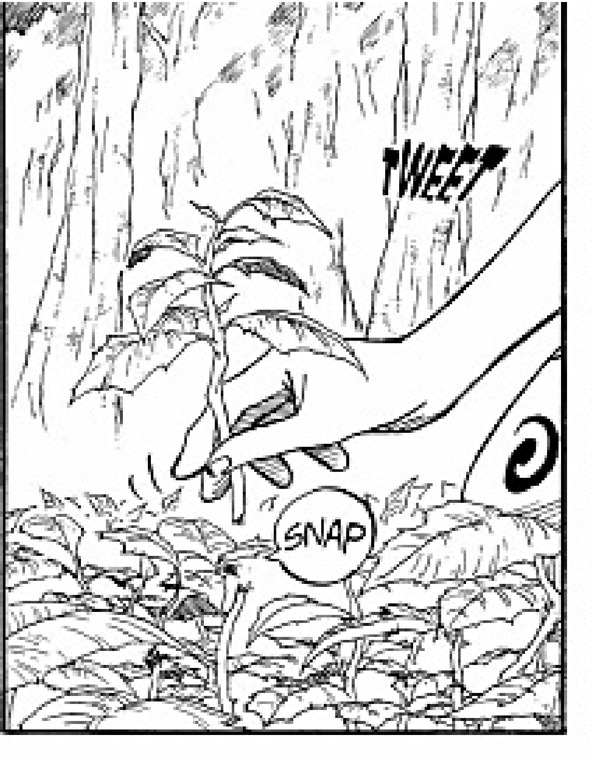

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NARUTO...?
!
SPLAT
OW!

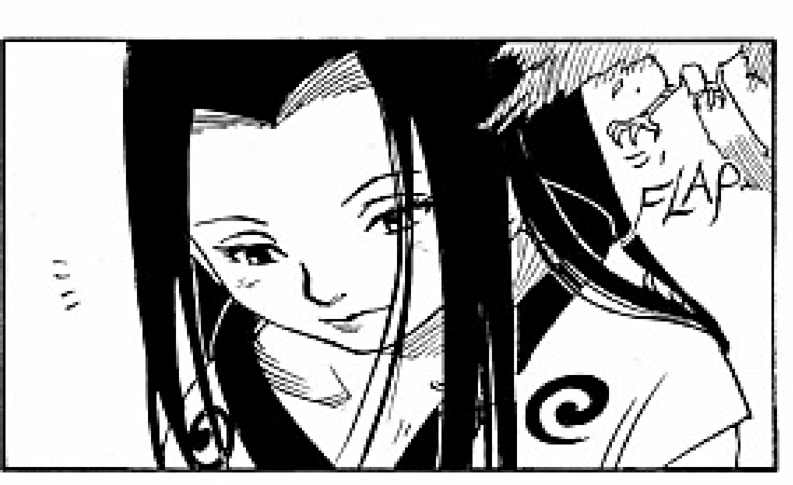
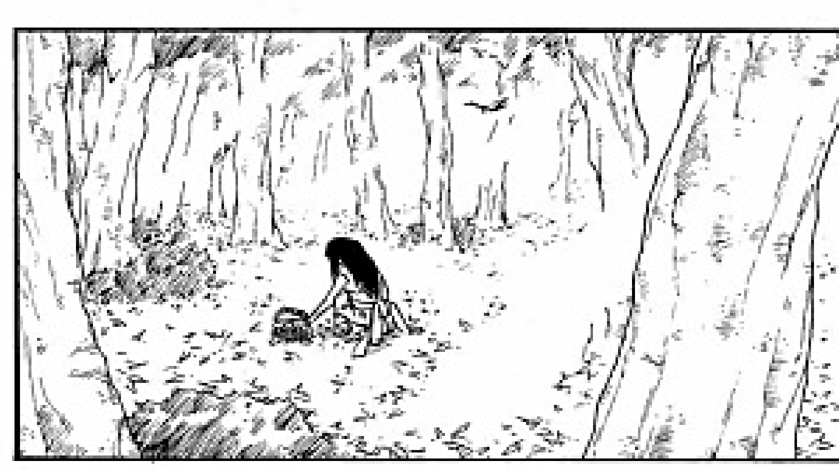
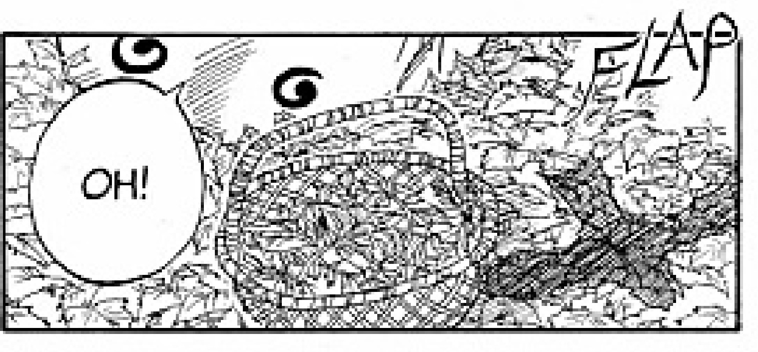
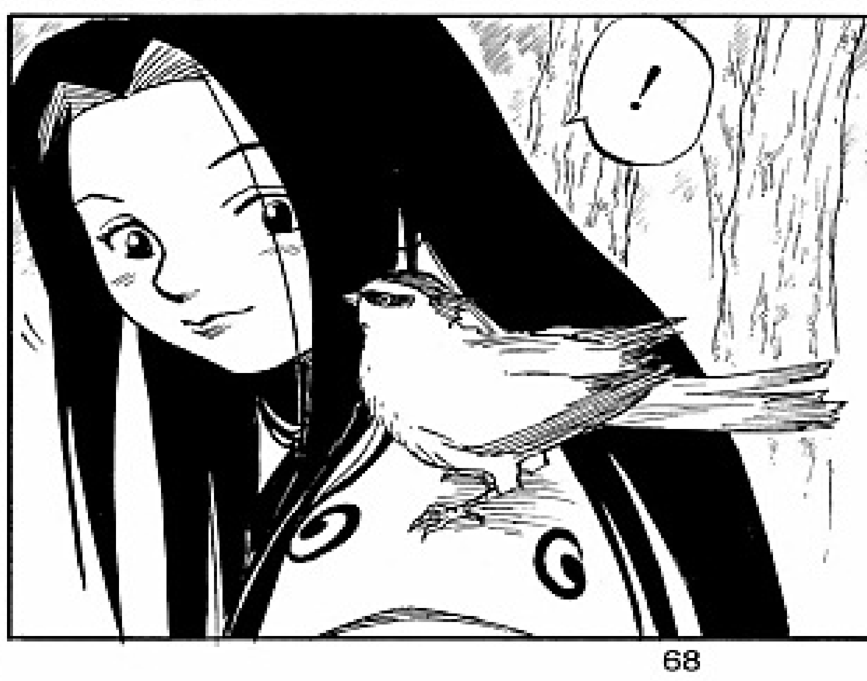
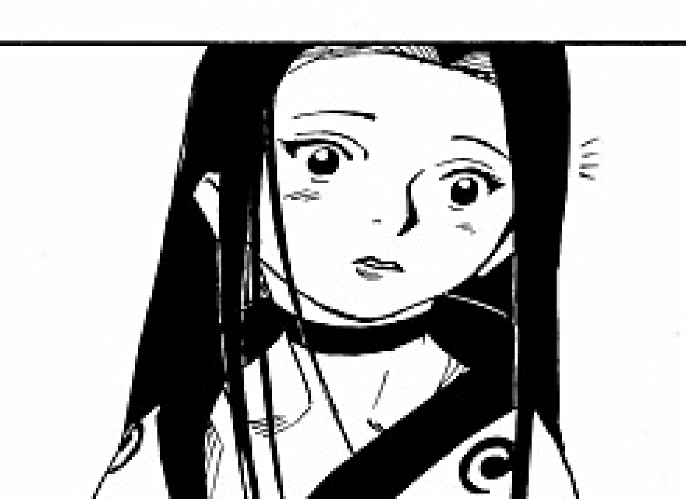

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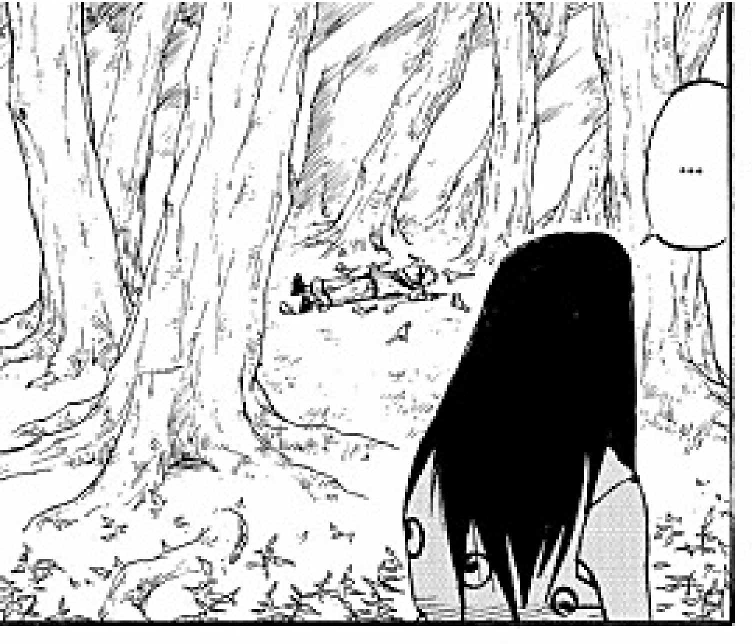

I'M GOING TO PROVE TO HIM THAT HE'S WRONG!
?
PROVE WHAT? TO WHOM?
BAM
I'M GOING TO SHOW INARI...!
THAT THERE ARE STILL HEROES IN THE WORLD!!!



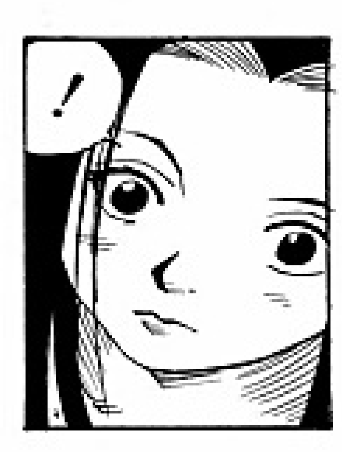

Number 21:
A Meeting in the Forest...!!
MORNING ON THE SIXTH DAY OF TRAINING...
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
FLUFF
SHF


TWEET
SNAP

TWEET
TWEET

FLAP


FLAP
OH!

!



...

FLAP
PECK
PECK



!

FLOP

TAK

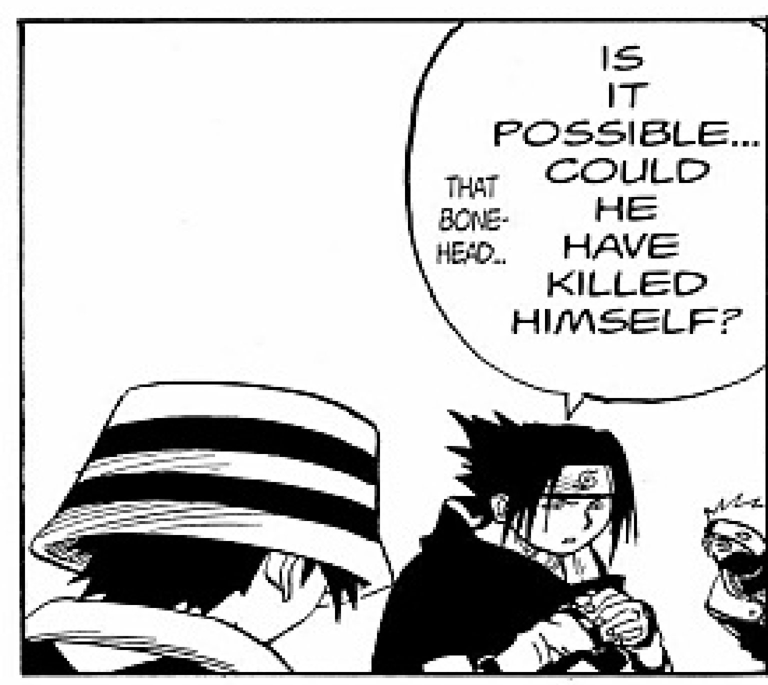
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!!
WHO ARE YOU?!!

SHF

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

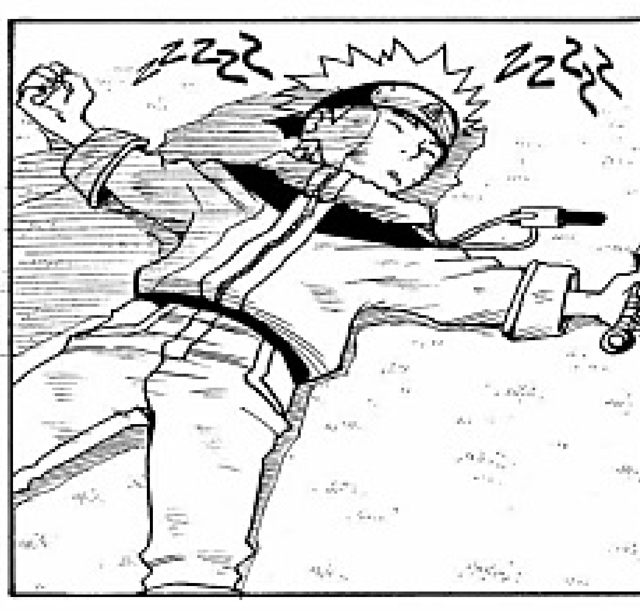

-YA-AAAWN!-
EVER SINCE YOU TOLD US THAT STORY, HE'S BEEN IN THE TREES, TRAINING ALL ALONE, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...
...AN IDIOT WITH AN OBSESSION!
NAUGHTY NARUTO STAYED OUT ALL NIGHT AGAIN, DIDN'T HE?
MMMM
NARUTO'S A GOOFY KID... BUT HE'S ALSO A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
...I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A BOY TO SPEND NIGHT AFTER NIGHT ALONE OUTSIDE!
IF HE EXHAUSTS HIS CHAKRA, HE COULD KILL HIMSELF... AND BE LYING DEAD SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW.


READ
THIS
WAY

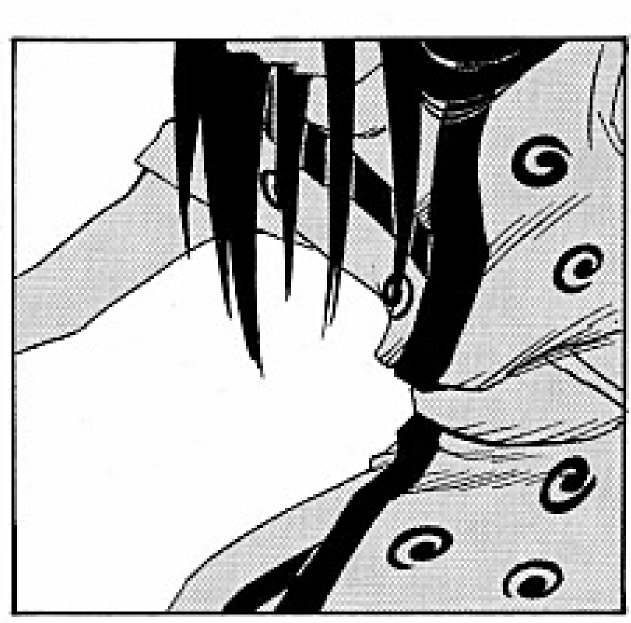

IS IT POSSIBLE... COULD HE HAVE KILLED HIMSELF?
THAT BONE-HEAD...

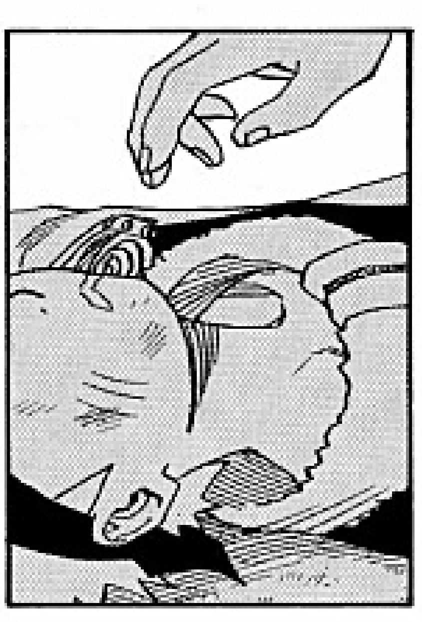

...




ZZZZ
ZZZZ


ZZZZ
ZZZ



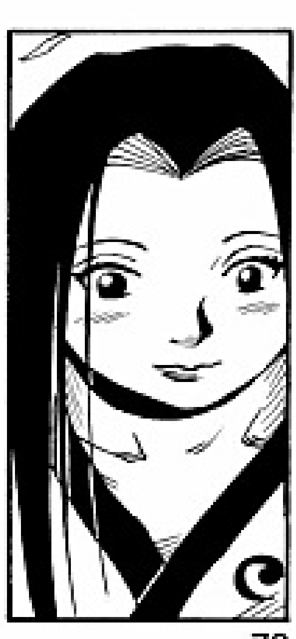




YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH OF COLD, SLEEPING ON THE GROUND.
TAP
...HUNH?

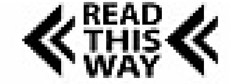


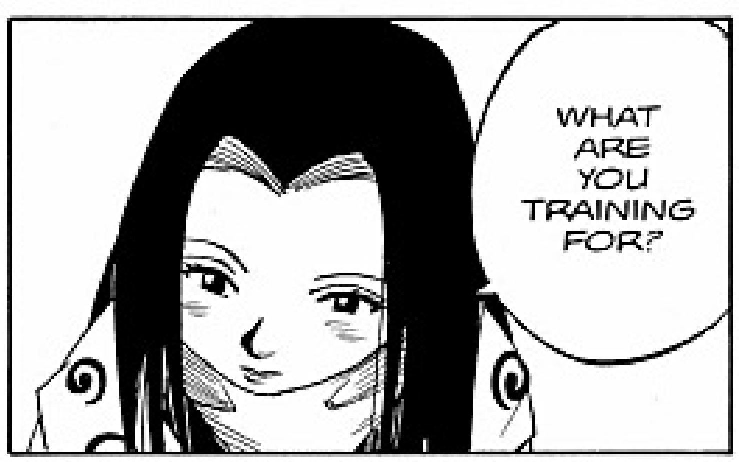




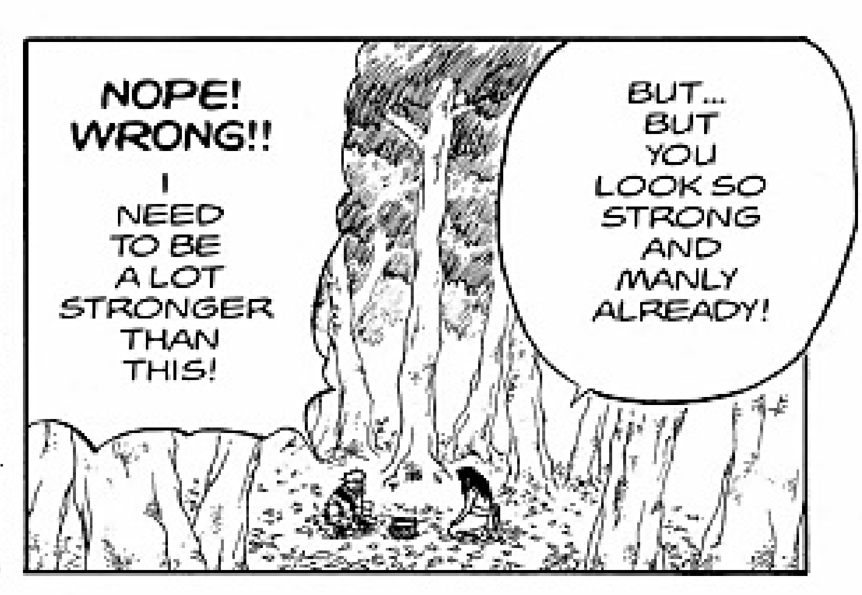


THAT'S SOME JOB YOU TOOK ON, GIRL... HARVESTING ALL THAT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.
LOOK AT WHO'S TALKING! WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AT THE CRACK OF DAWN?
I'M SORRY TO HAVE IMPOSED ON YOU.
ARE THESE GRASSES AND WEEDS REALLY MEDICINAL?
!
TRAINING!!
REALLY? THAT HEADBAND YOU'RE WEARING... ARE YOU SOME KIND OF NINJA?
!!
PING!
YEAH
WHY? DO YOU THINK I LOOK LIKE ONE? DO I? REALLY? BECAUSE I AM!
WOW—THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
HEH HEH...


READ THIS WAY


WHAT ARE YOU TRAINING FOR?


TO BUILD UP MY STRENGTH.


BUT... BUT YOU LOOK SO STRONG AND MANLY ALREADY!
NOPE! WRONG!!
I NEED TO BE A LOT STRONGER THAN THIS!


...

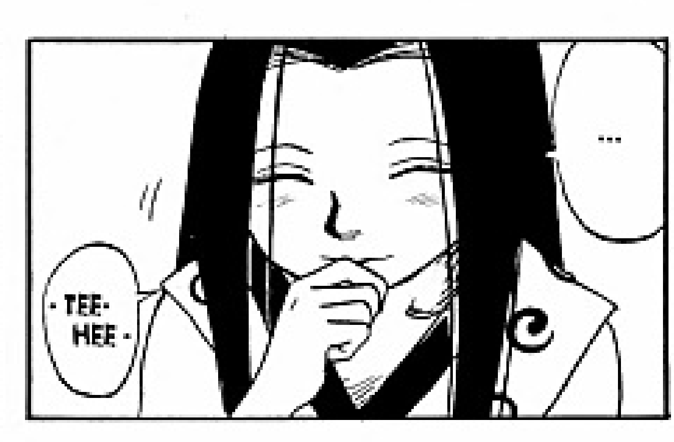

BUT...
..WHY...

TO BECOME TOP DOG IN MY HOME TOWN!
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO TREAT ME LIKE DIRT WILL HAVE TO SAY "HE'S THE NUMBER ONE NINJA"!
AND RIGHT AT THE MOMENT, I KIND OF HAVE TO PROVE A POINT... TO A CERTAIN PERSON I KNOW.



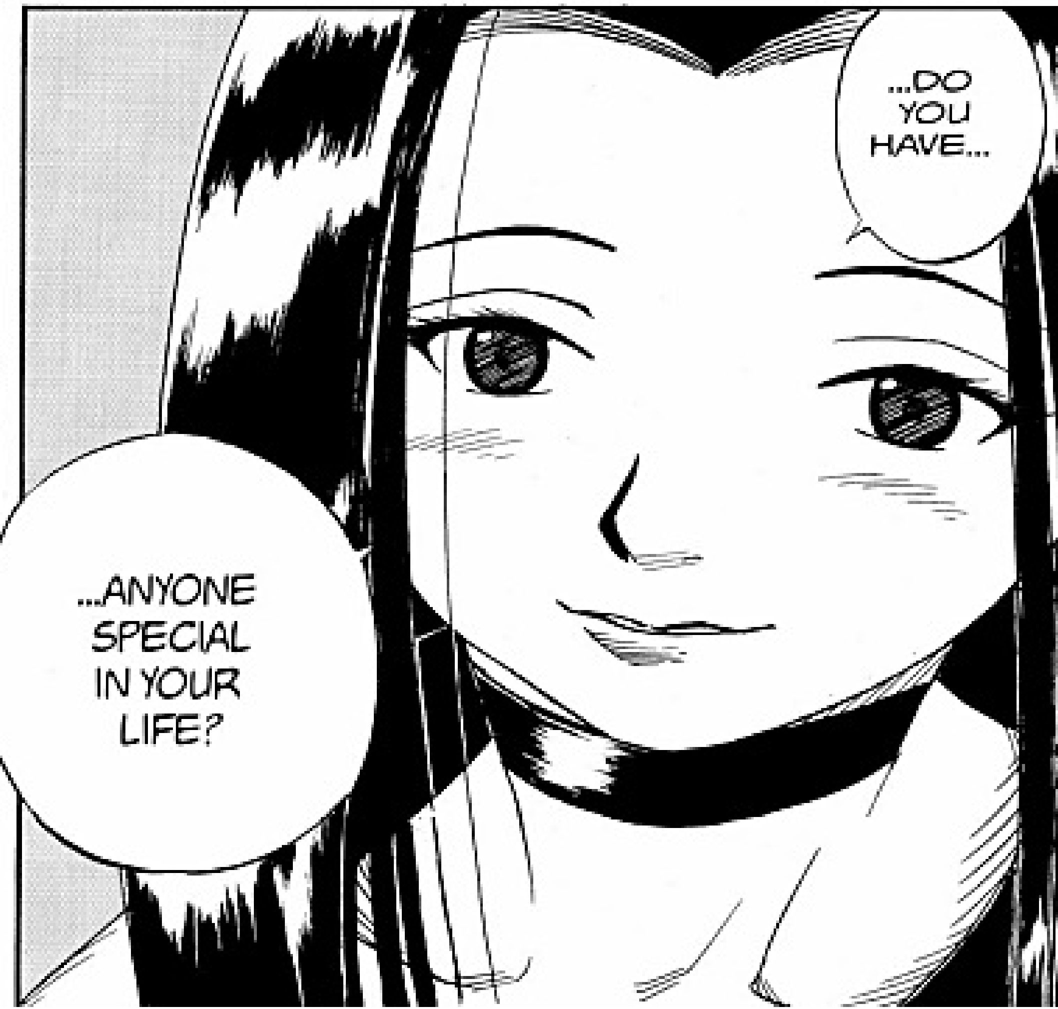

...ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THAT PERSON...
...OR FOR YOUR OWN SATISFACTION?


...
...WHUT?

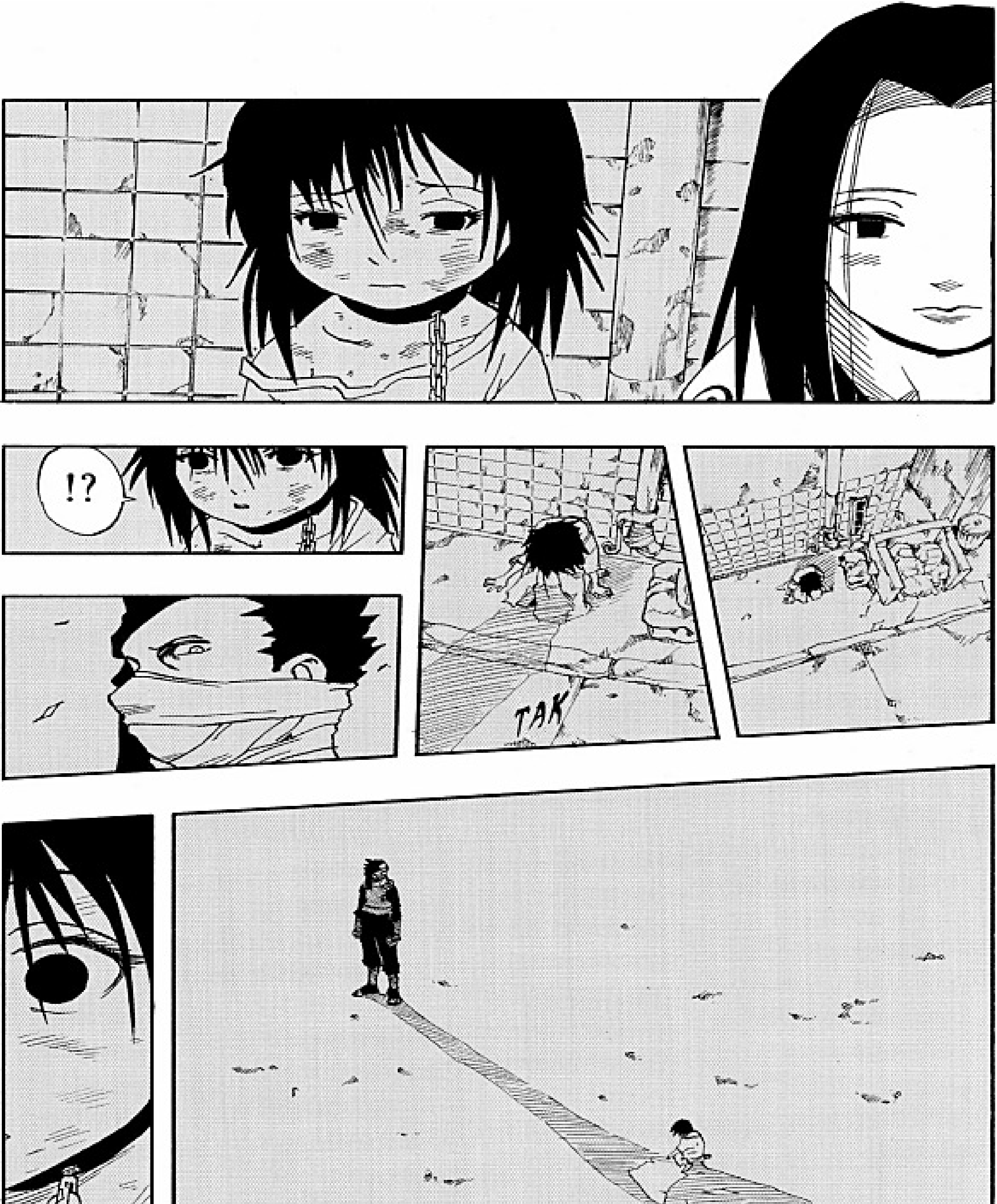

...
TEE-HEE


!
GLARE


WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

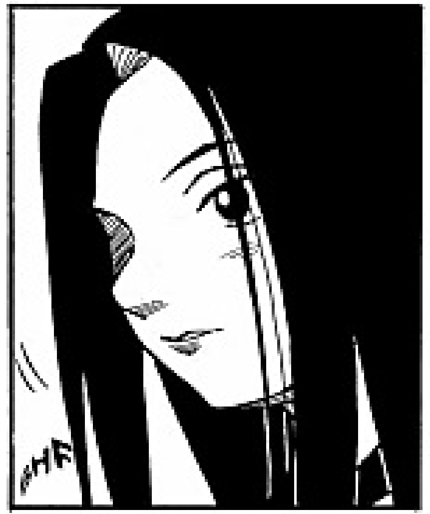

...DO YOU HAVE...
...ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?

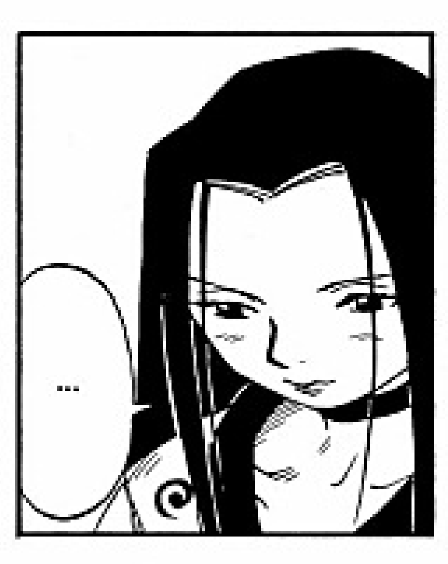

!
?
WHAT'S THIS GIRL DRIVING AT?...

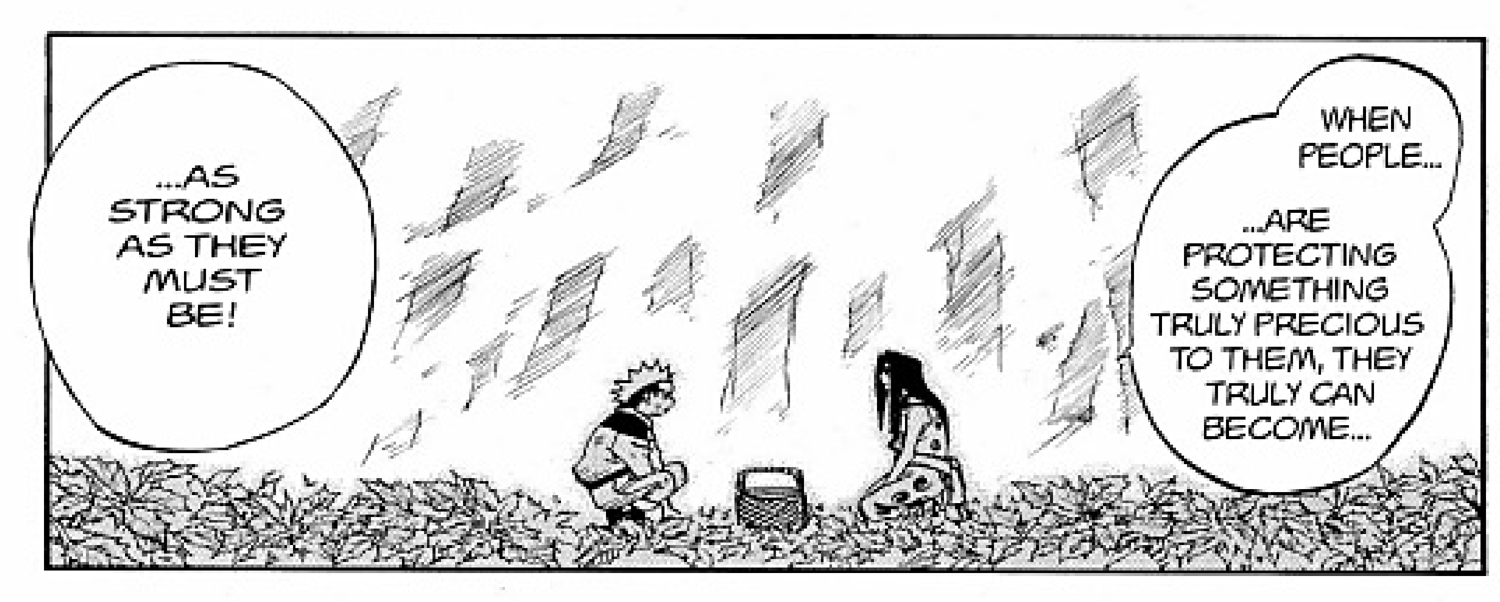

!?
TAK

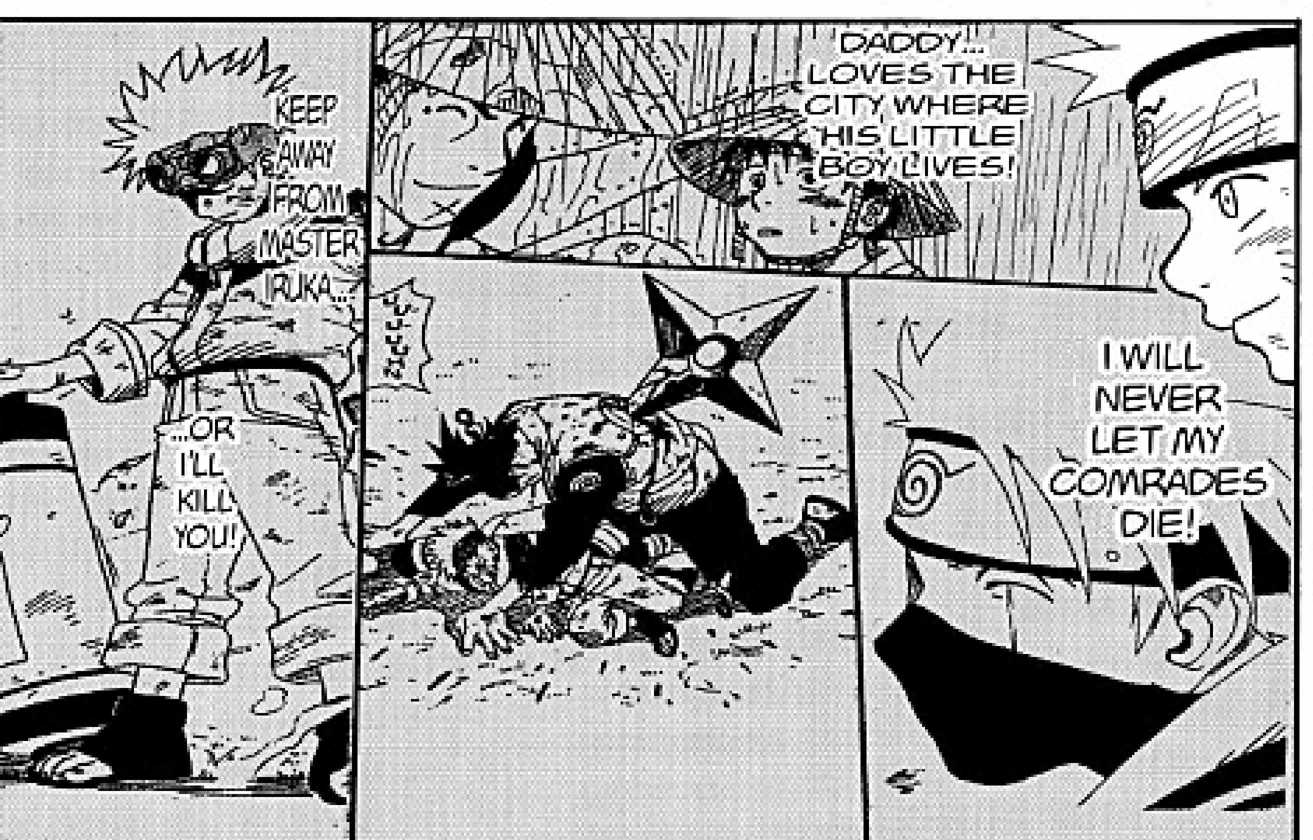

READ THIS WAY


?
WHAT NOW?

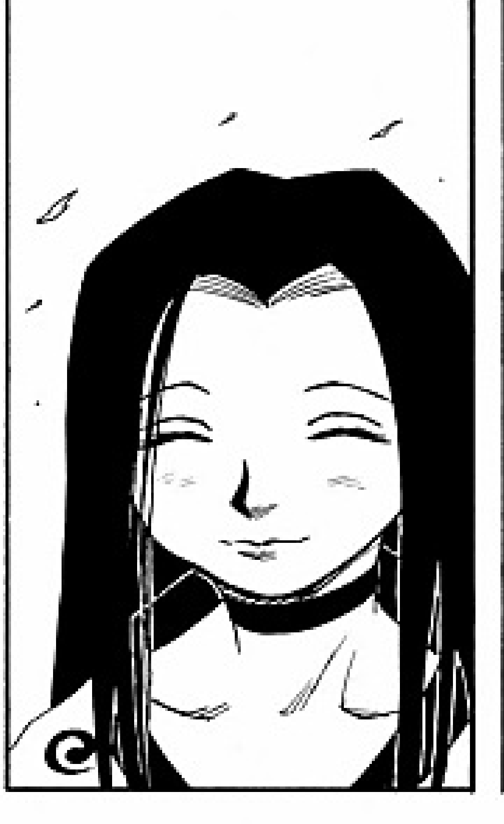



...


WHEN PEOPLE...
...ARE PROTECTING SOMETHING TRULY PRECIOUS TO THEM, THEY TRULY CAN BECOME...
...AS STRONG AS THEY MUST BE!

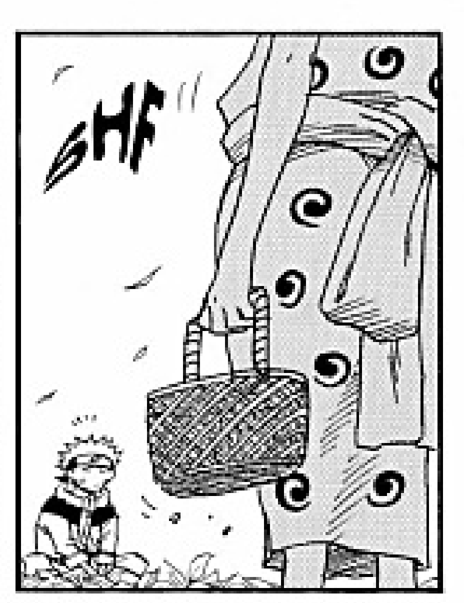

DADDY... LOVES THE CITY WHERE HIS LITTLE BOY LIVES!
KEEP AWAY FROM MASTER IRUKA...
...OR I'LL KILL YOU!
I WILL NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!

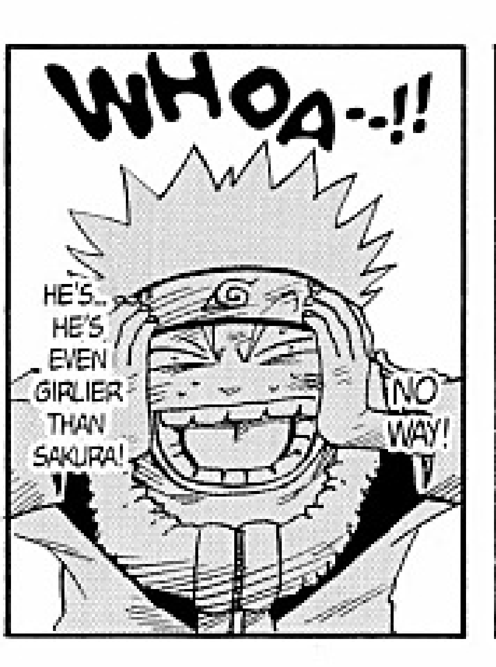

...



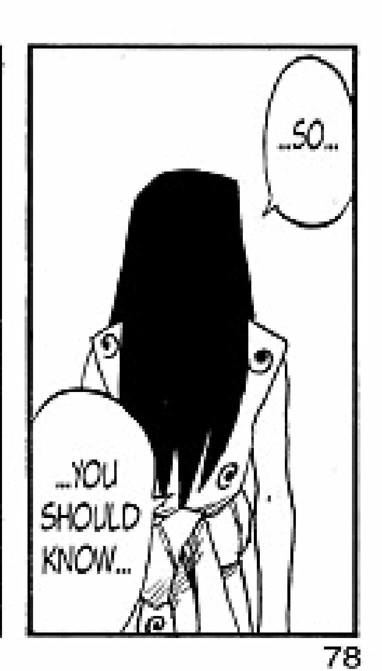

YUP!
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!
GR IN

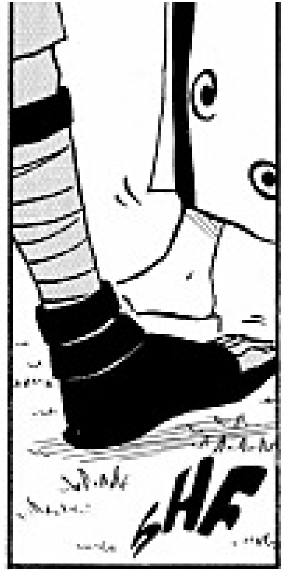

YOU WILL GET STRONGER...
I KNOW WE'LL MEET AGAIN...
RIGHT!

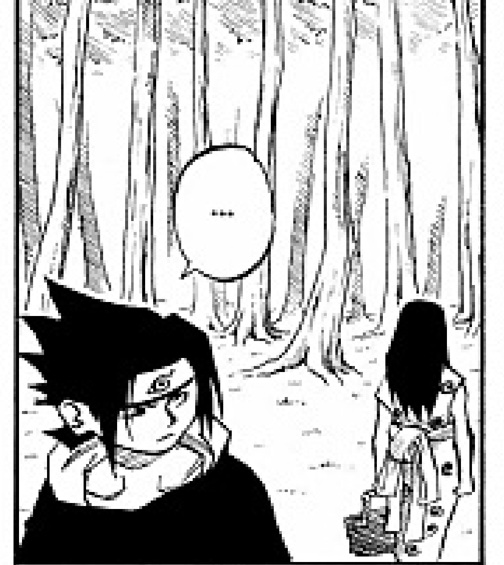

SHF


WHOA--!!
HE'S.. HE'S EVEN GIRLIER THAN SAKURA!
NO WAY!

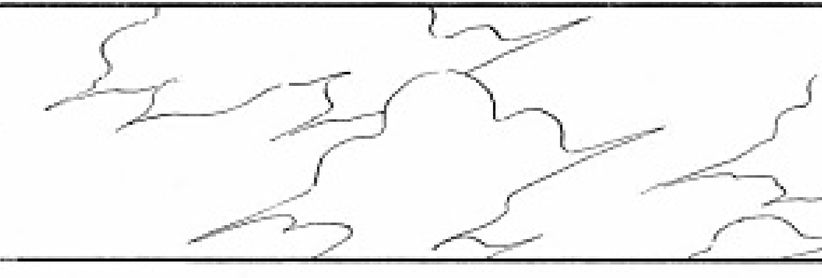

!
I'M A BOY.


...SO...
...YOU SHOULD KNOW...









THE NEXT MORNING -- THE SEVENTH DAY OF TRAINING



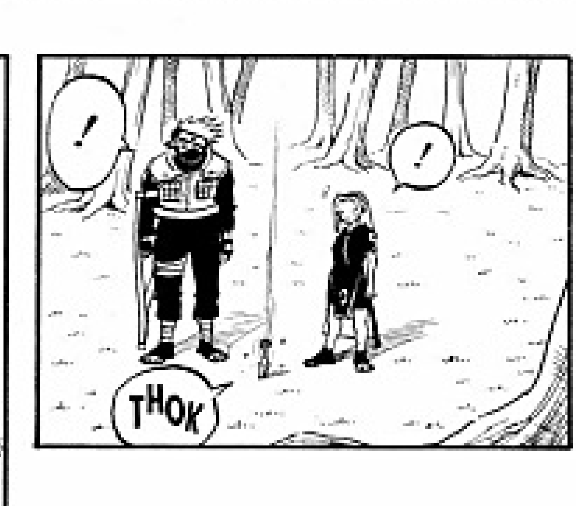
WHERE DID NARUTO GO **THIS** TIME...?

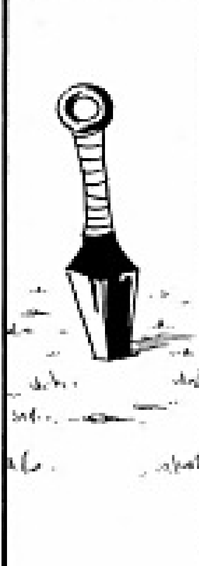
PUSHING HIMSELF BEYOND HIS LIMIT, GOING OUT BY HIMSELF AGAIN LAST NIGHT...

AND AT BREAKFAST TIME...



...SASUKE SAYS HE'S GOING FOR A WALK... AND HE DISAPPEARS, TOO!

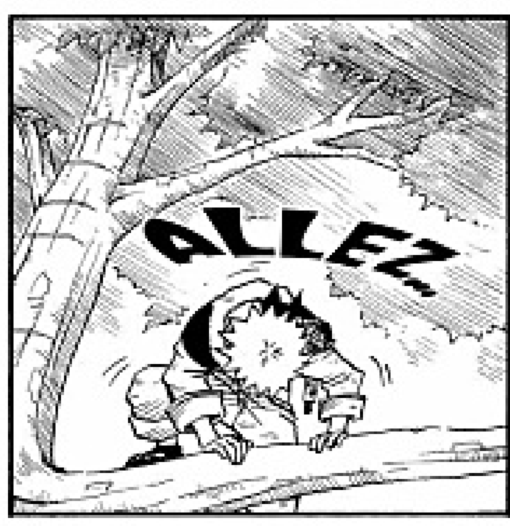







TA-DAAAA
PUFF
HEH-HEH...
DID YOU SEE?
LOOKIT HOW HIGH I CAN GO!!
WELL?! WELL?!
AMAZING...!
NARUTO CAN CLIMB ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
...HUNH!

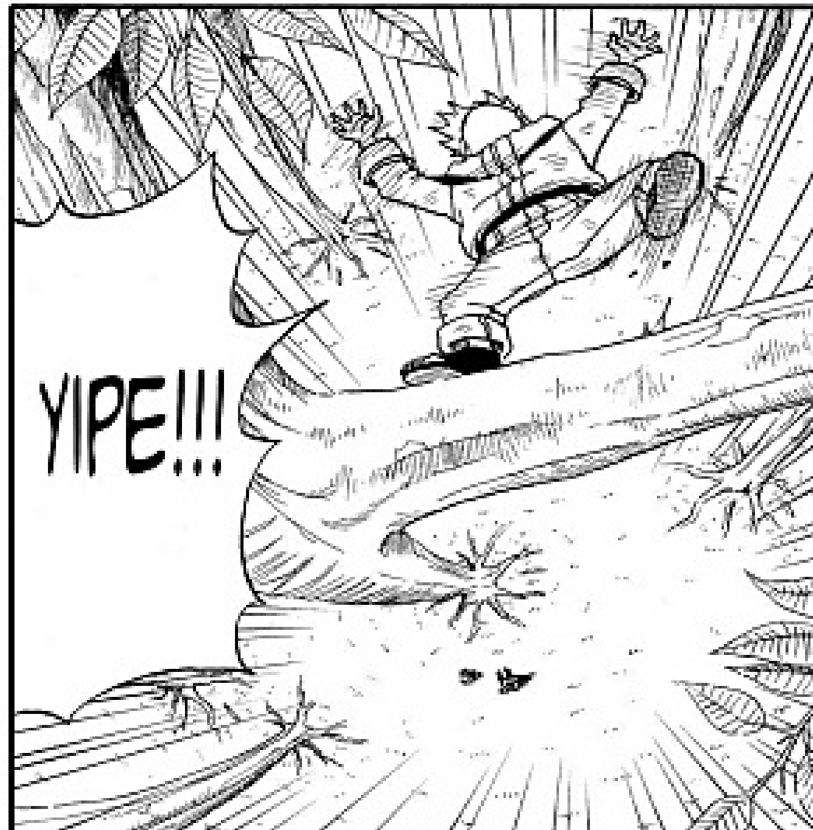

READ
THIS
WAY


ALLEZ


OO-OOPS!
SLIP
SLIDE
!


WHU-
OH!


YOU
IDIOT!!!
!!
NO!!!
IF HE
FALLS
FROM
THAT
HEIGHT...!!


YIPE!!!


AIEE--!!
I'M
NOT
HEALED
ENOUGH
TO--!


TA-DAAAH!
PSYCH--!!
HEH...

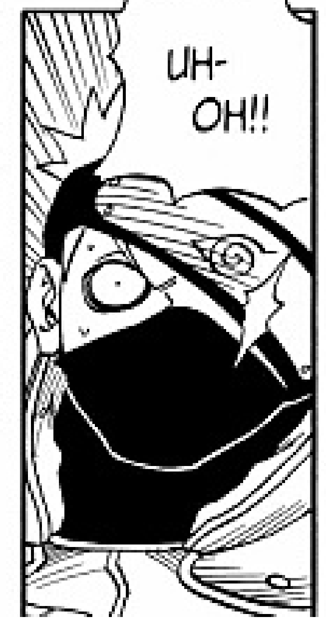



HAH... GOTCHA, SUCKERS!!
HA-HA!
...
...


YOU... YOU... ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK, YOU JERK!
OH, YEAH!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU FOR THIS... LATER!




POOFF
UH--!


UH-OH!!


HEY--!!
AGH!!
TWICE IS TOO MUCH, NARUTO! STOP MESSING AROUND!!!

YOU BONE-HEAD.
OW!
AAAAAH-
YAAA-
SMAP
GRAB!!


...
WELL, THEY ARE COMING ALONG NICELY!


YESSSS! SASUKE SAVES THE DAY!! HE GIVES ME SHIVERS!!!

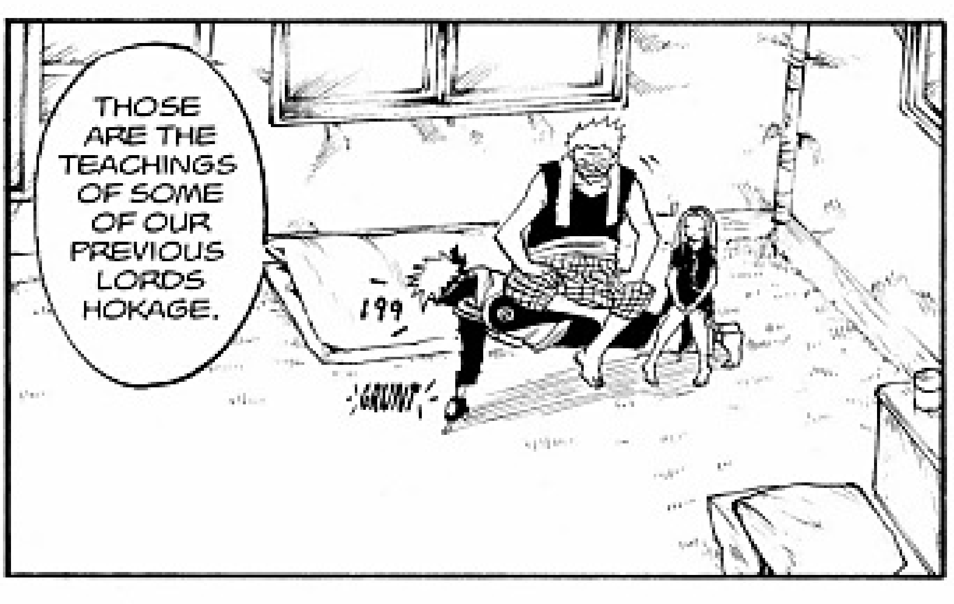

SASUKE!!


SPLISH
SPLASH

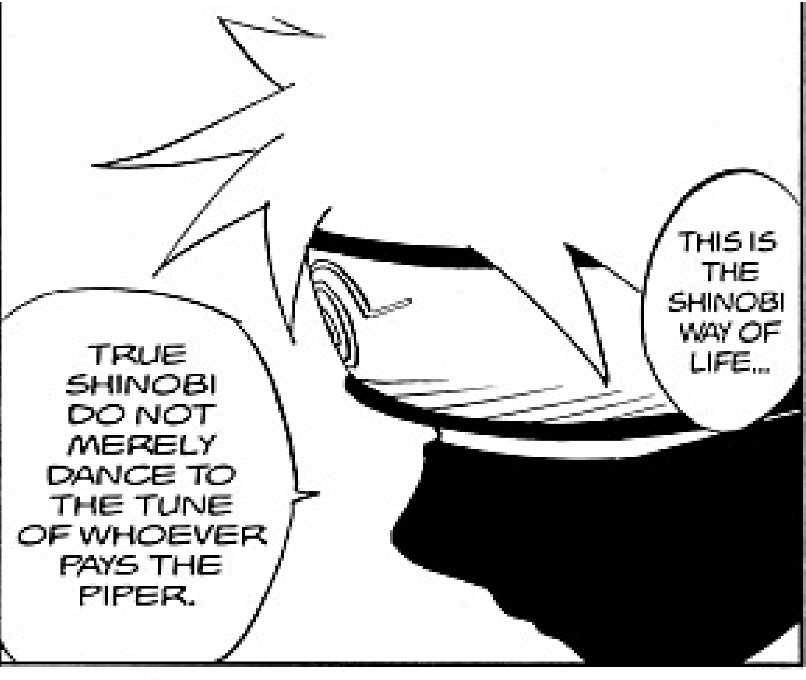

...UZUMAKI NARUTO, HUH...
196...
197...
198...

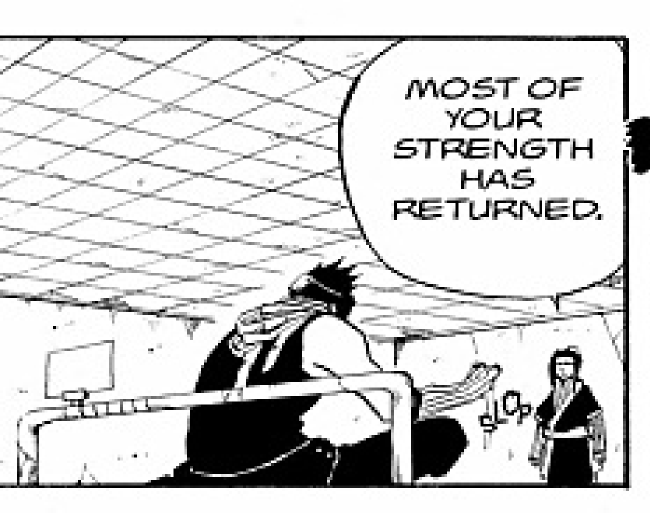

...I KEEP MEANING TO ASK YOU...
YOU KNOW I DUPED YOU ABOUT HOW DANGEROUS THIS MISSION WAS TO GET YOU TO COME HERE...
... SO WHY DO YOU STAY?
"TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND CHOOSE TO IGNORE IT IS THE ACT OF A COWARD."

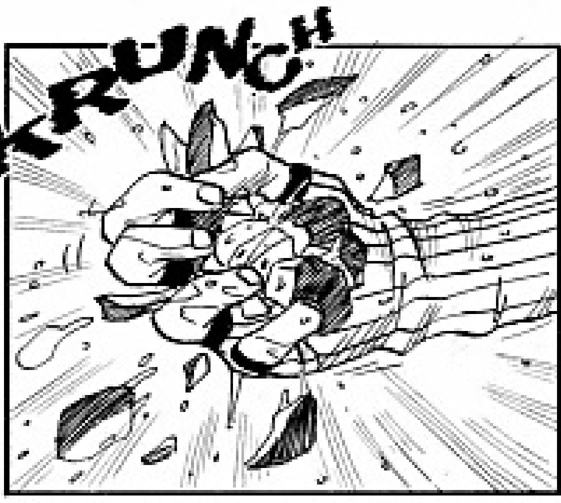

"LIKE MASTER, LIKE MAN!"

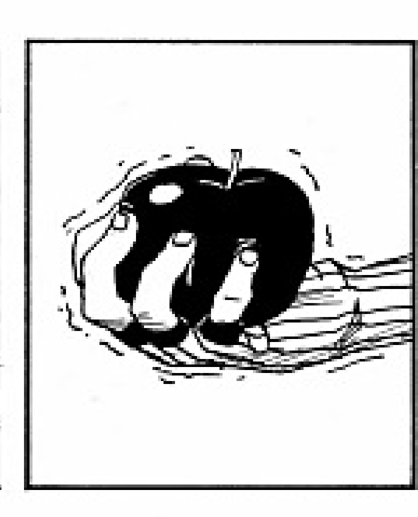

THOSE ARE THE TEACHINGS OF SOME OF OUR PREVIOUS LORDS HOKAGE.
199
GRUNT


IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ALMOST COMPLETELY HEALED.

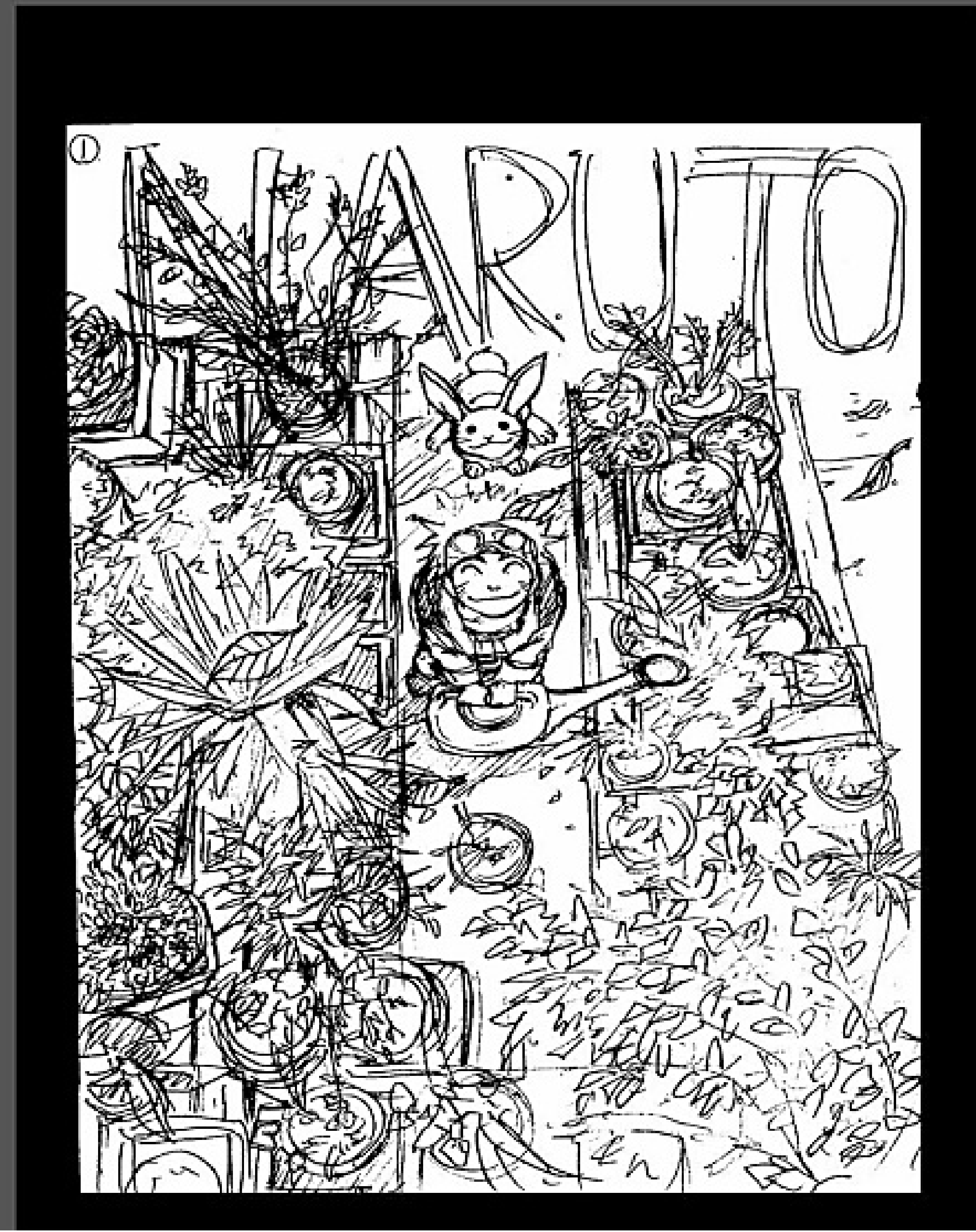

TRUE SHINOBI DO NOT MERELY DANCE TO THE TUNE OF WHOEVER PAYS THE PIPER.
THIS IS THE SHINOBI WAY OF LIFE...


MOST OF YOUR STRENGTH HAS RETURNED.
SLOP


KRUNCH



EXCELLENT!!
LET'S GET GOING, HAKU!
OF COURSE.
DRIP
DRIP



1
NARUTO


Number 22: The Enemies Return
WANT TO HEAD BACK?
SURE!!
PUFF
PUFF
HUFF


SO, YOU'RE FINALLY BACK!
KREAK
LOOKING LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN!
KOFF
KOFF
HEH... BOTH OF US...
PUFF
UFF
WE MADE IT TO THE TOP OF THE TREE.
I TOLD YOU IF YOU DIDN'T TAKE A BREAK YOU'D WEAR YOURSELF OUT, YOU DOPE.
GOOD!
NARUTO, SASUKE, STARTING TOMORROW...
...YOU TWO CAN HELP SAKURA PROTECT MR. TAZUNA.
YES, SIR!!


WHEW!... WELL, I'M DIRTY, SWEATY, AND REAL WORN OUT FROM ALL OF THE WORK ON THE BRIDGE TODAY...
BUT CONSTRUCTION IS ALMOST COMPLETE!


FATHER, YOU AND NARUTO ARE TWO OF A KIND. PLEASE DON'T WORK YOURSELVES TO DEATH!
OOOH!
YEP.


SIGH
SIGH




PUFF
PUFF








...INARI...
DON'T CRY...



...PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT!
IF SOME-THING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...

WHAT'S WRONG?

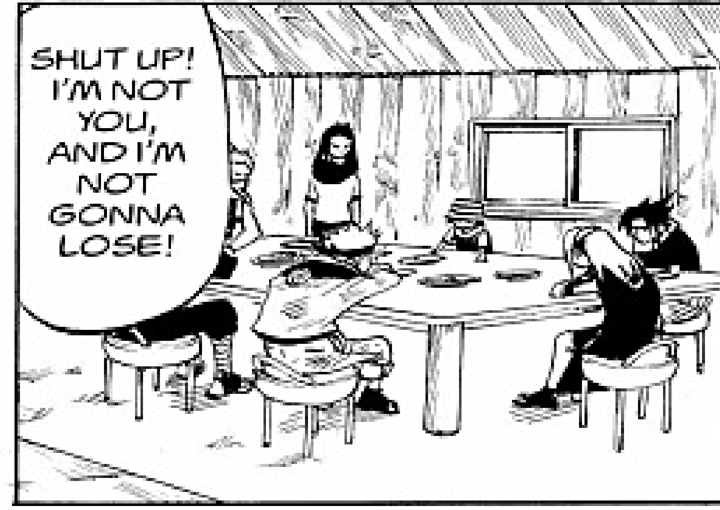
WHY...
WHY...

!

YOU ACT ALL COOL, AND YOU TALK ALL TOUGH...
...BUT BIG, STRONG GUYS LIKE THAT ARE ALWAYS TOO MUCH FOR PEOPLE WEAKER THAN THEY ARE. THEY'LL DESTROY YOU!!
WHY DO YOU WEAR YOURSELF OUT TRYING?
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRAIN, YOU'LL NEVER BE A MATCH FOR GATÔ'S THUGS!
SLAM!


READ THIS WAY


...
...
...


SHUT UP! I'M NOT YOU, AND I'M NOT GONNA LOSE!


JUST WATCHING YOU TICKS ME OFF!
YOU GO RUNNING YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW A THING! THIS ISN'T YOUR TOWN!


AND YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME.
YOU'RE ALWAYS CLOWNING AROUND AND HAVING FUN. YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT SUFFERING OR LONELINESS OR WHAT MY LIFE IS LIKE!


PING


SO...YOU FIGURE IT'S NOBLE TO STAR IN A MELODRAMA AND TREAT EVERYONE AROUND YOU LIKE GUESTS AT YOUR PITY PARTY?
SHFF
!

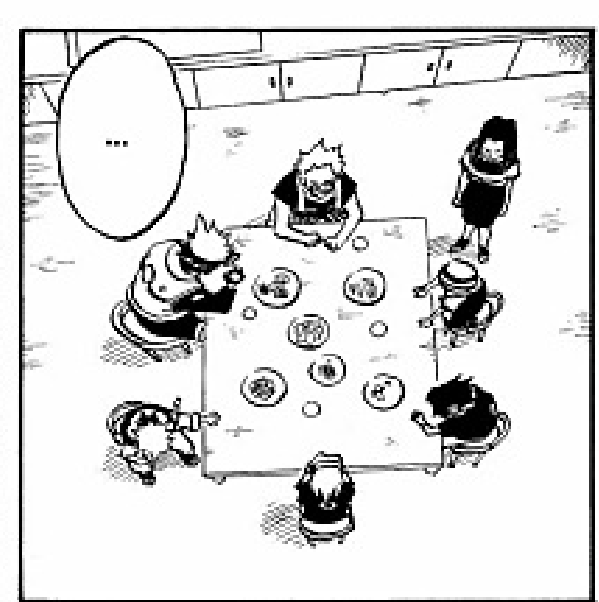
IT TAKES A REALLY BIG MAN TO SIT AROUND AND CRY... YOU BRAT!

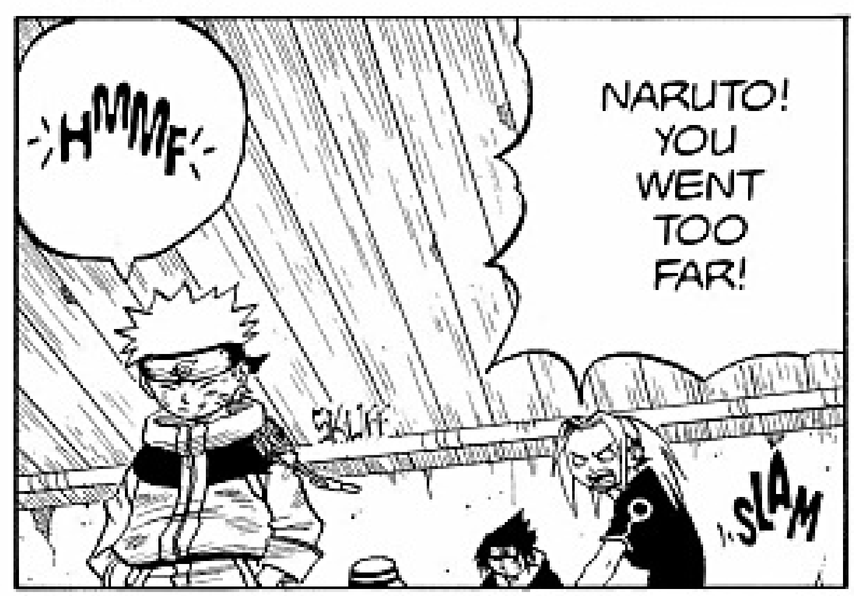
GRRRR

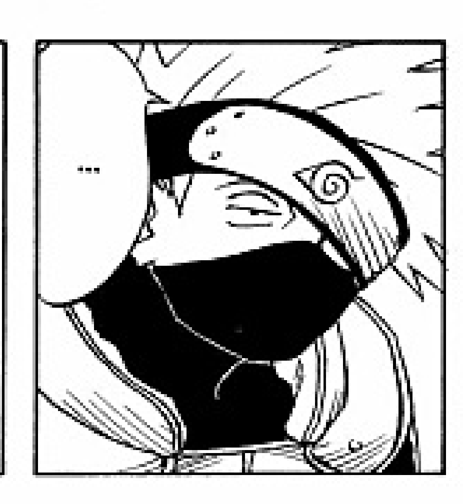
YOU BIG BABY!!



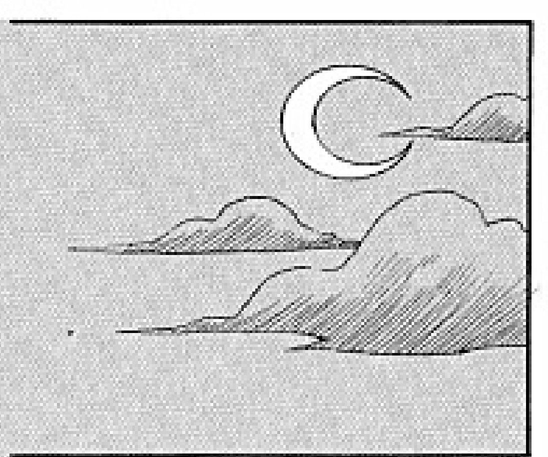

READ THIS WAY


...


SLAM
NARUTO! YOU WENT TOO FAR!
HMMF


...

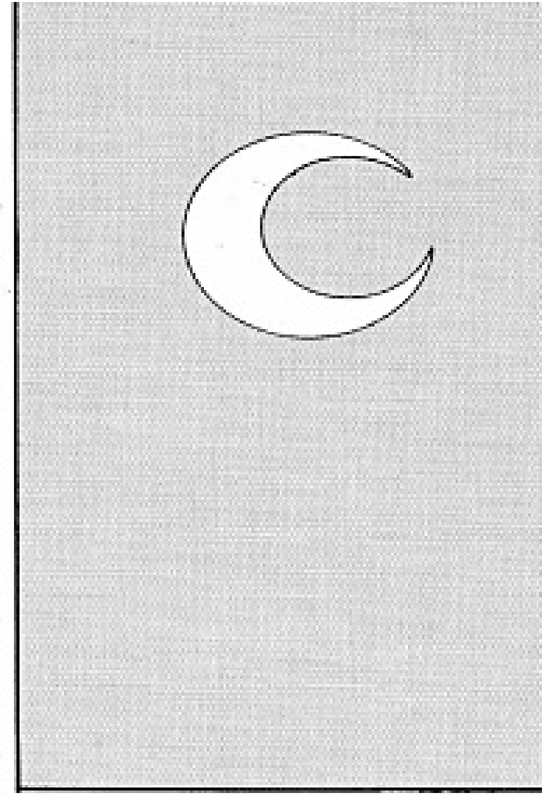


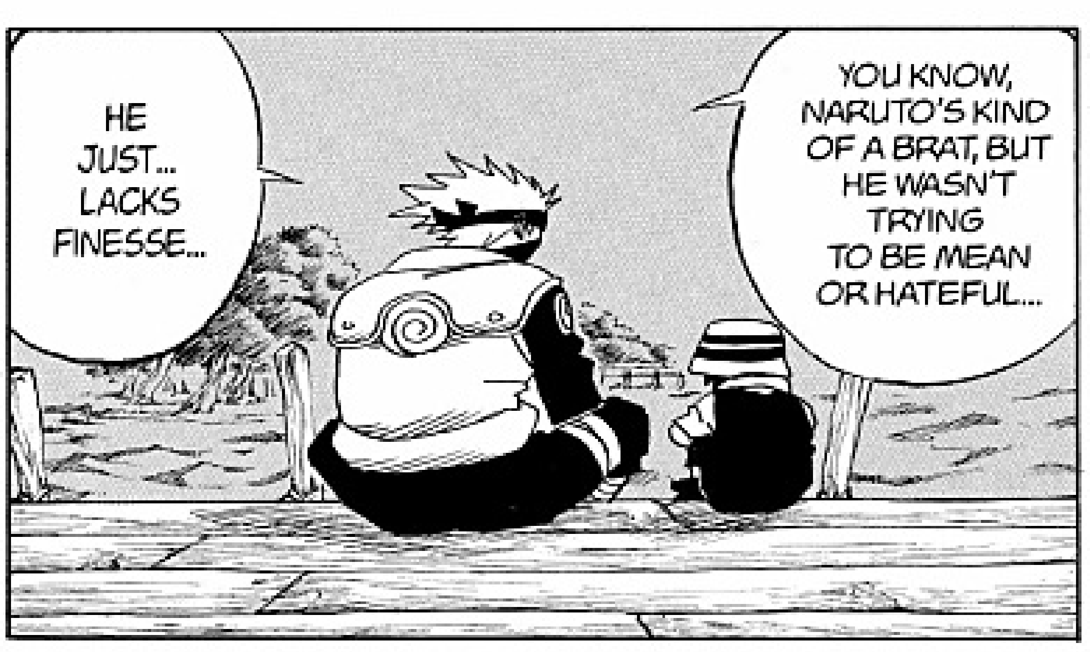


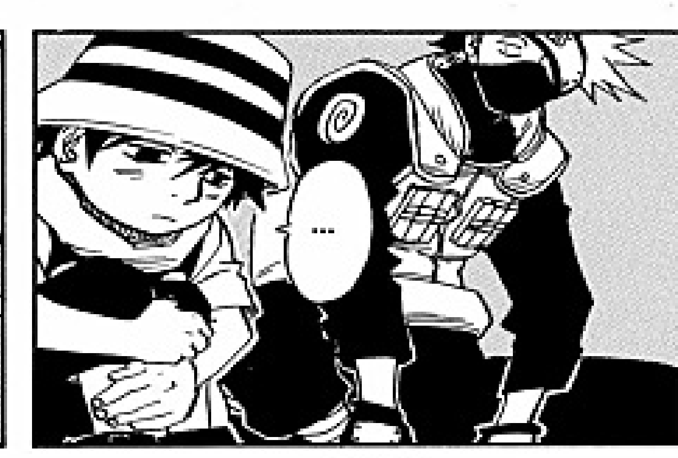

SPLASH
SPLASH


MAY I JOIN YOU...?






YOU KNOW, NARUTO'S KIND OF A BRAT, BUT HE WASN'T TRYING TO BE MEAN OR HATEFUL...
HE JUST... LACKS FINESSE...

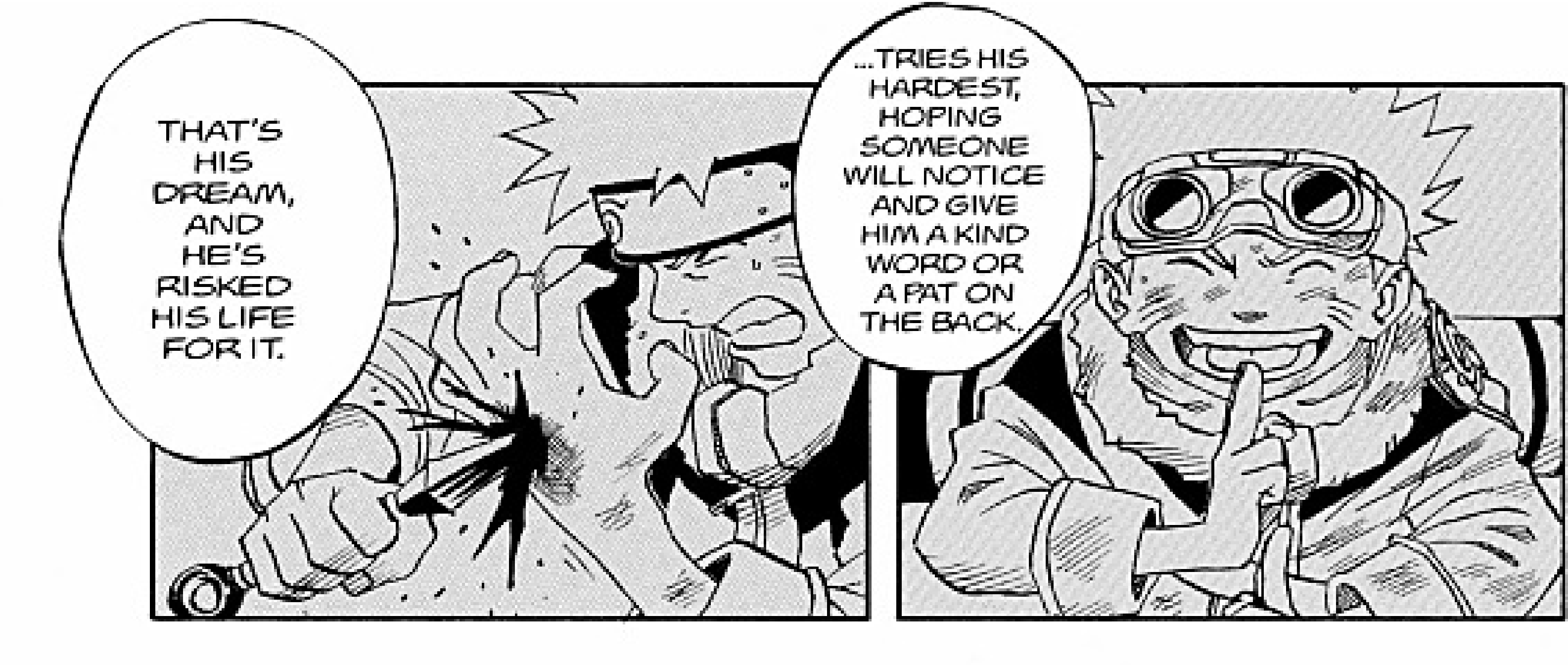

...


MR. TAZUNA TOLD US ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER.


NARUTO GREW UP WITHOUT A FATHER, SAME AS YOU.
jab


...ACTUALLY, WITHOUT ANY PARENTS. HE DOESN'T REMEMBER EITHER ONE OF THEM. OR HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND.
HIS WHOLE LIFE IS ONE BIG, PAINFUL MEMORY.
R-REALLY?

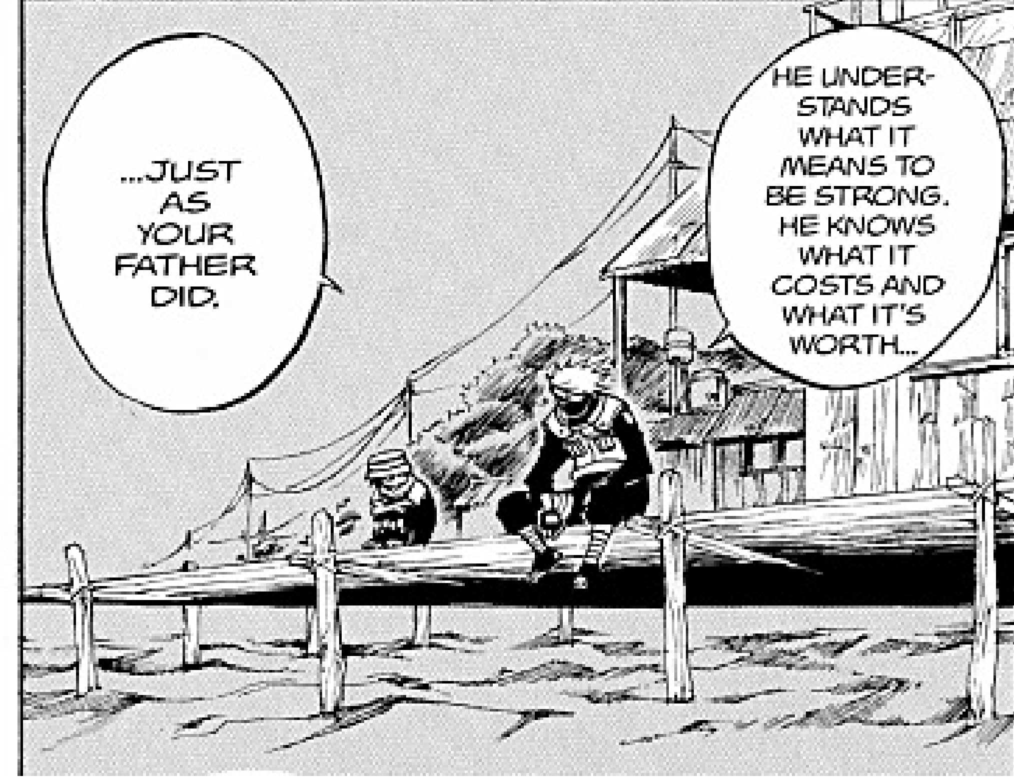

AND IN ALL THE TIME I'VE KNOWN HIM, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM CRY. OR USE HIS TROUBLES AS AN EXCUSE TO SULK OR BE A COWARD. NOT ONCE.
HE ALWAYS...


...TRIES HIS HARDEST, HOPING SOMEONE WILL NOTICE AND GIVE HIM A KIND WORD OR A PAT ON THE BACK.
THAT'S HIS DREAM, AND HE'S RISKED HIS LIFE FOR IT.


I THINK ONE DAY HE MUST HAVE JUST GOTTEN FED UP WITH CRYING.

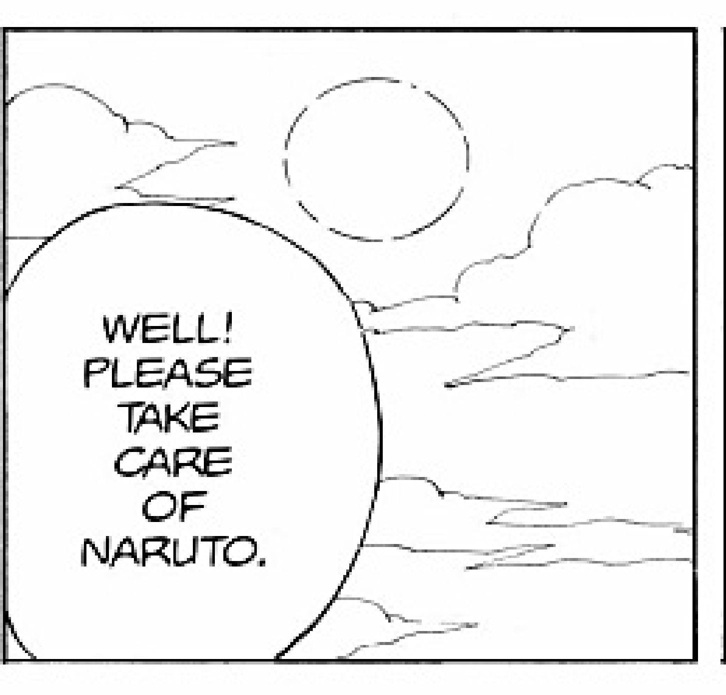


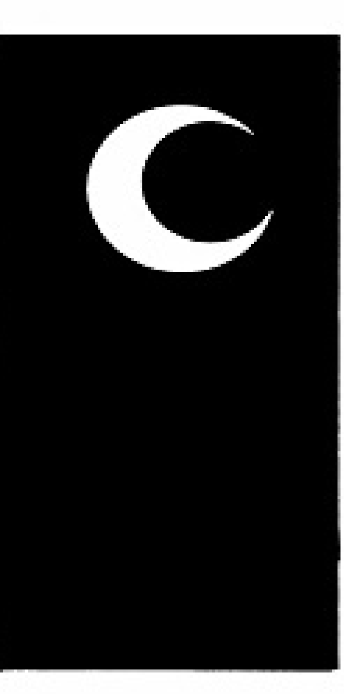

NARUTO PROBABLY UNDERSTANDS YOU AND KNOWS HOW YOU FEEL BETTER THAN ANY OF THE REST OF US.
WHAT?


HE UNDER-STANDS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE STRONG. HE KNOWS WHAT IT COSTS AND WHAT IT'S WORTH...
...JUST AS YOUR FATHER DID.

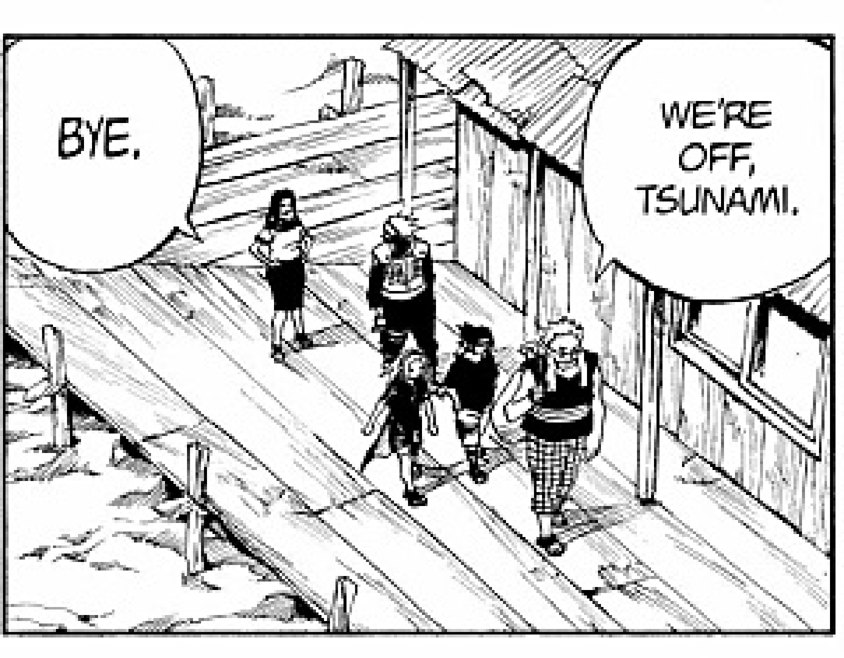
HE CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE...

... BECAUSE YOU'VE GOTTEN UNDER HIS SKIN.



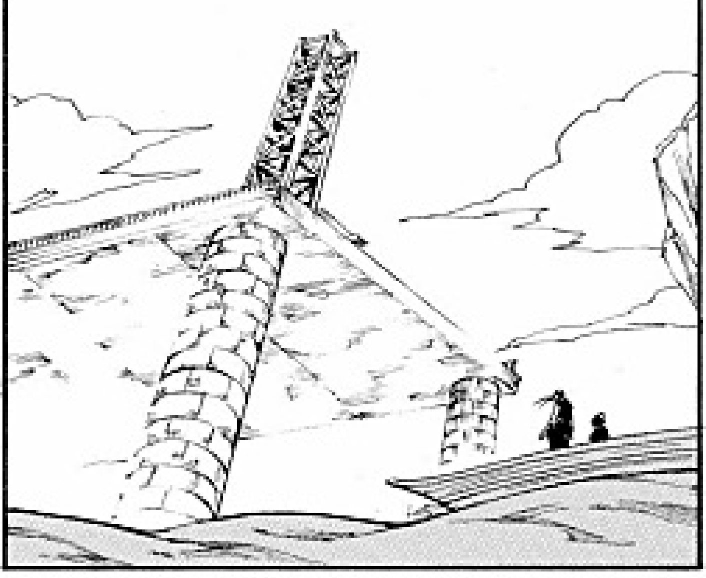






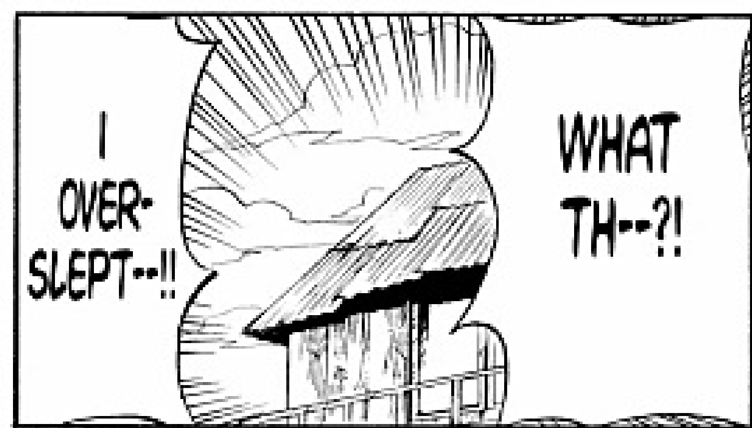


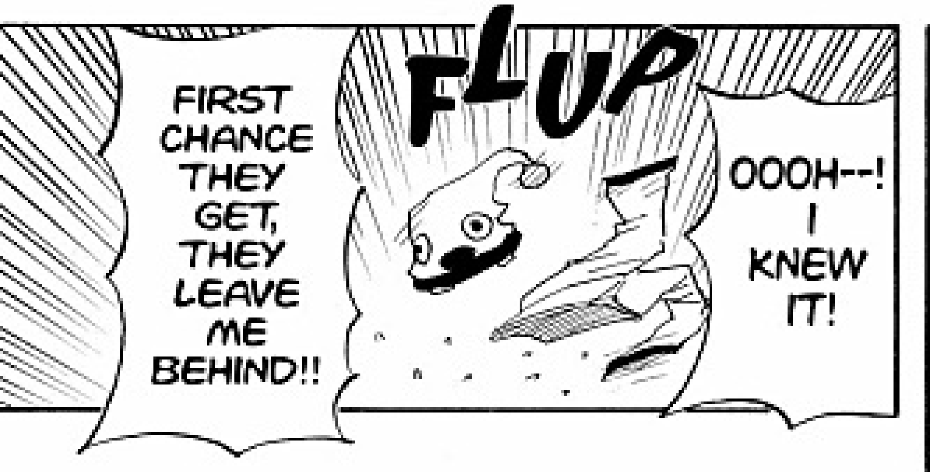

ARE YOU READY TO ATTACK?!




ZABUZA, PAY ATTENTION!!!
TIME TO GO, HAKU.
OF COURSE.


HEY! HELLO?! WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?
OH! NARUTO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP?


WHAT TH--?!
I OVER-SLEPT--!!

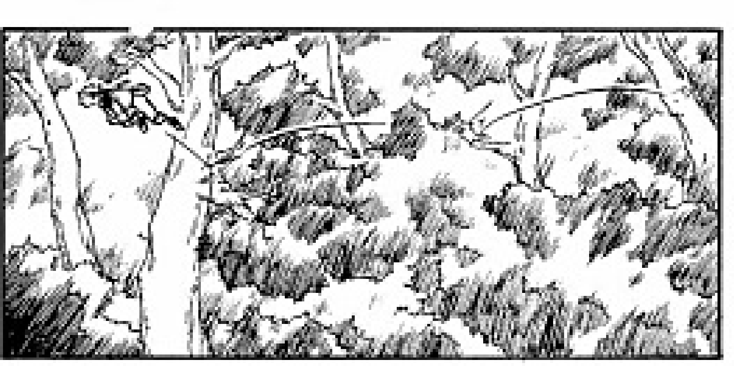

FLUP
OOOH--! I KNEW IT!
FIRST CHANCE THEY GET, THEY LEAVE ME BEHIND!!


STOMP
STOMP
MASTER KAKASHI WANTED YOU TO TAKE TODAY OFF.


READ THIS WAY


I'M OUTTA HERE!
...
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMPITTY STOMP


...

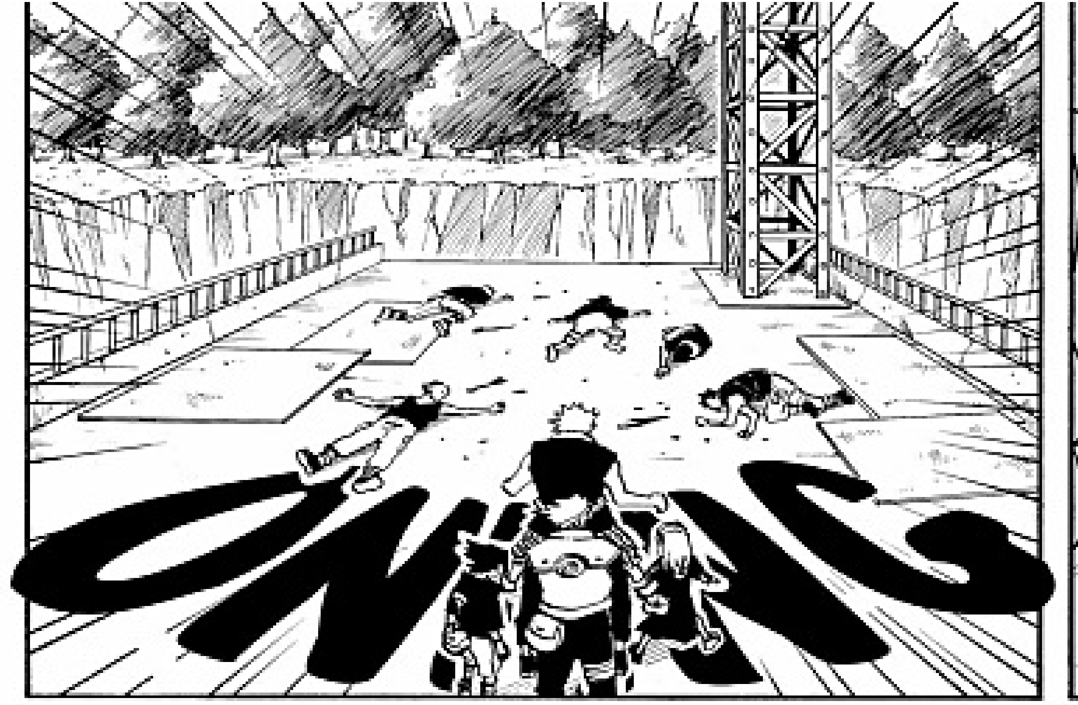



RUSTLE
HEY?


JEEZ--! WHY DIDN'T THEY WAKE ME?!
HOP


WHAT'S THAT?

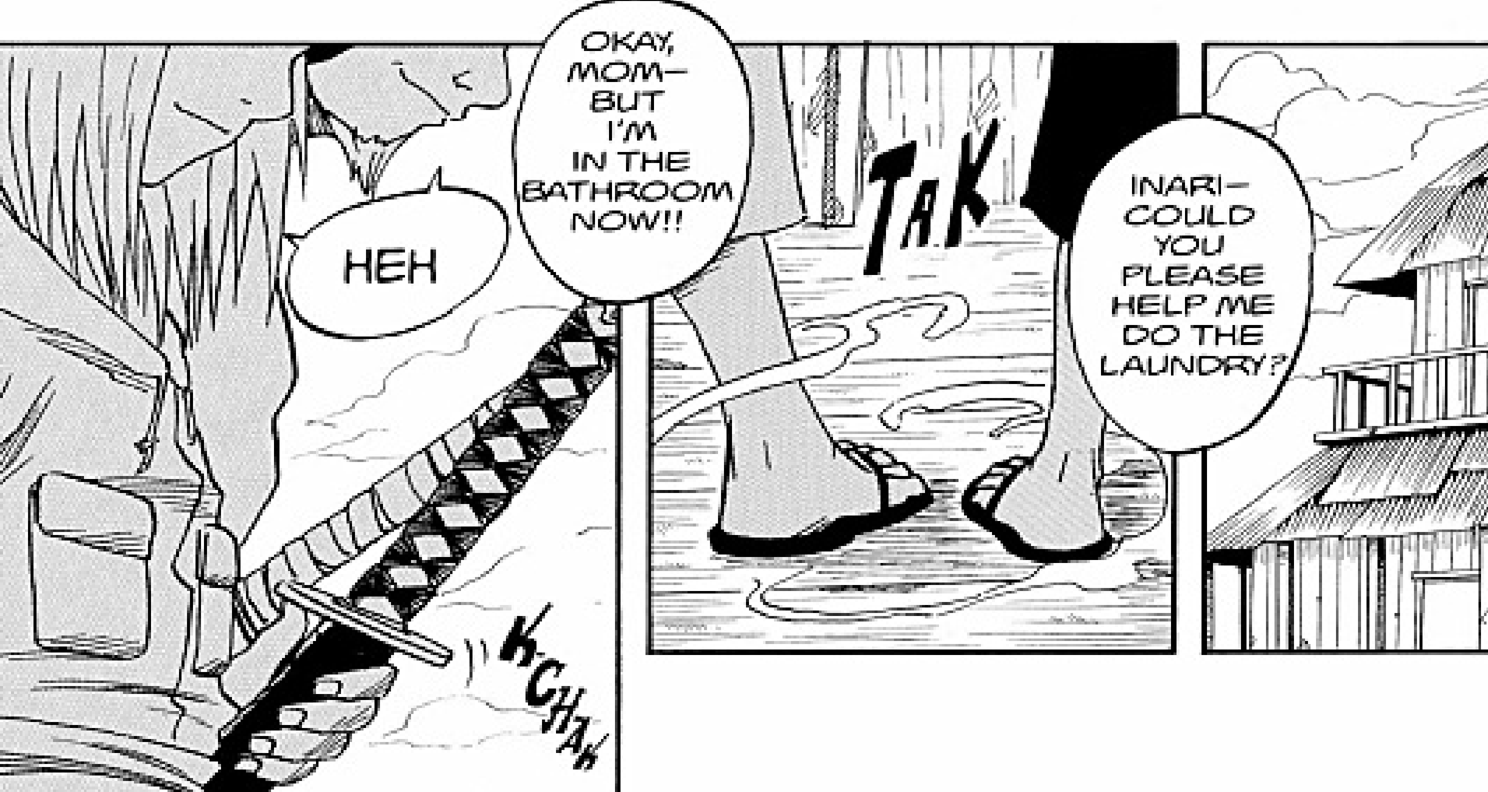

WH-WHAT THE HELL...?




WHAT HAPPENED?!!
WHAT... COULD HAVE...?!


M-MONSTERS..

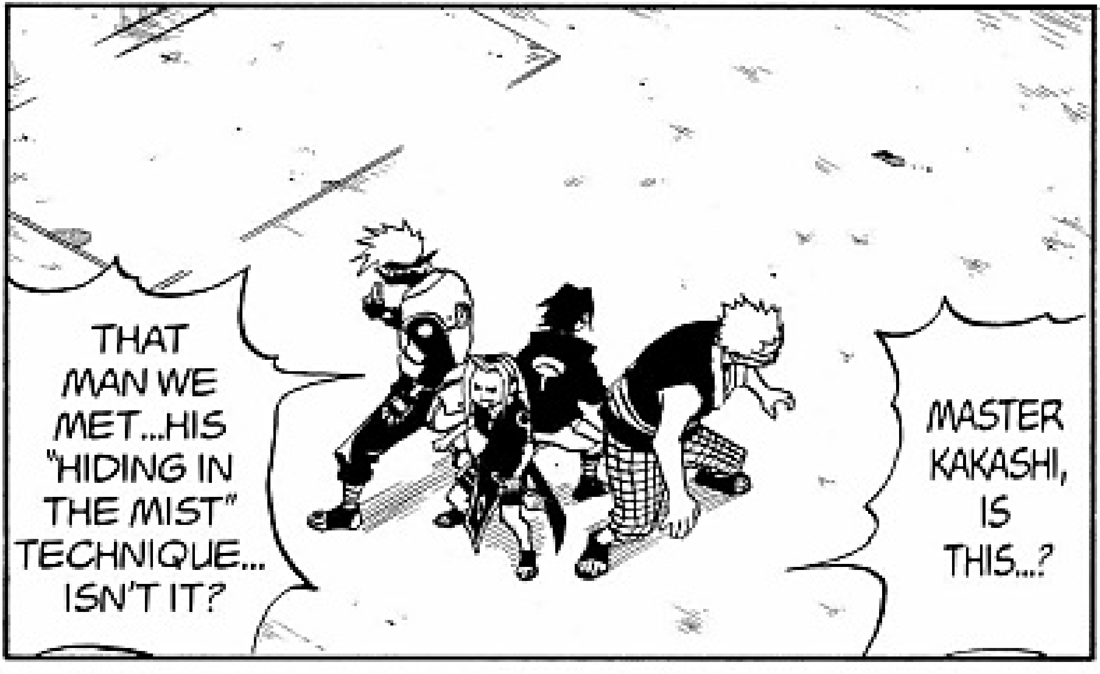

...
IT CAN'T BE...

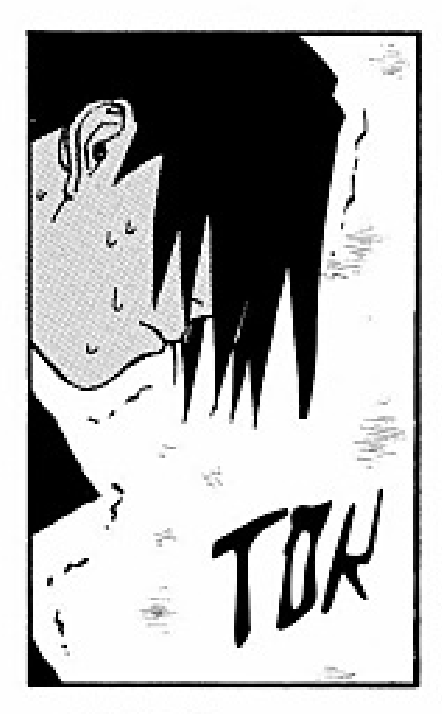

INARI—COULD YOU PLEASE HELP ME DO THE LAUNDRY?
TAK
OKAY, MOM—BUT I'M IN THE BATHROOM NOW!!
HEH


THE MIST...
!
THEY'RE COMING!!
!
!


READ
THIS
WAY

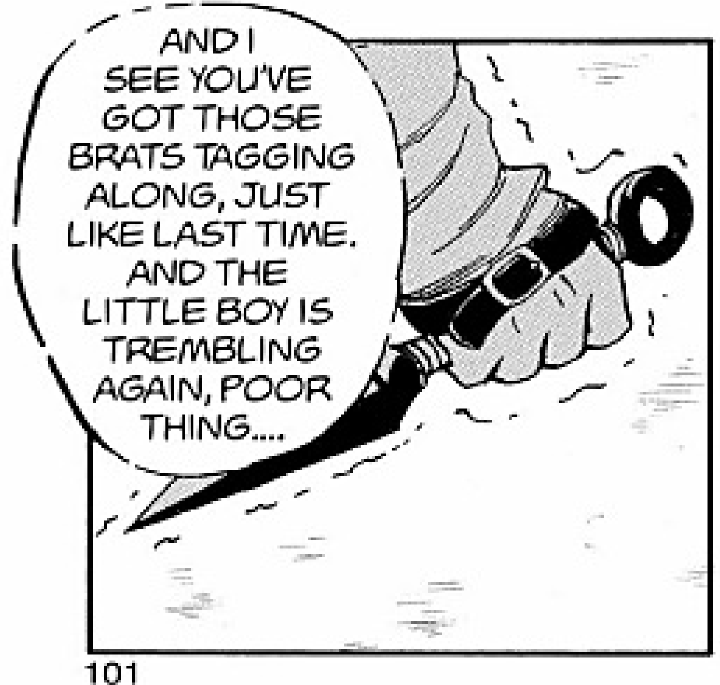

I WAS RIGHT! HE SURVIVED...
...AND HE'S COME BACK TO FINISH THINGS.


MASTER KAKASHI, IS THIS...?
THAT MAN WE MET...HIS "HIDING IN THE MIST" TECHNIQUE... ISN'T IT?


TOK


SHUDDER

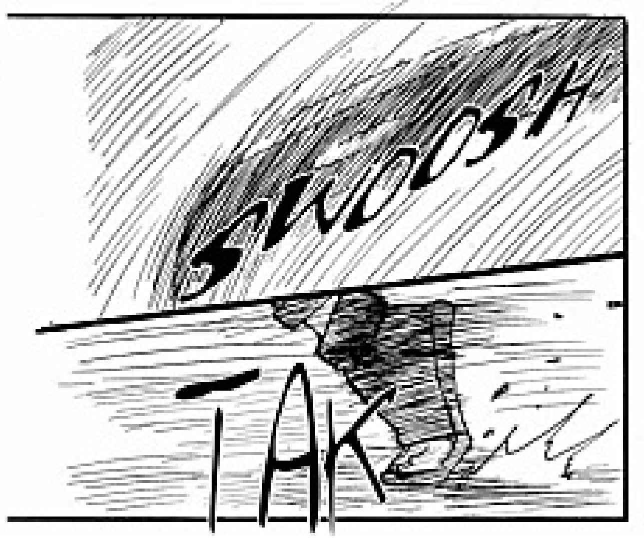

BEEN A WHILE, KAKASHI...


AND I SEE YOU'VE GOT THOSE BRATS TAGGING ALONG, JUST LIKE LAST TIME. AND THE LITTLE BOY IS TREMBLING AGAIN, POOR THING....

!!


HAH


GO AHEAD...
...SASUKE.


SWOOSH
TAK

NNGG



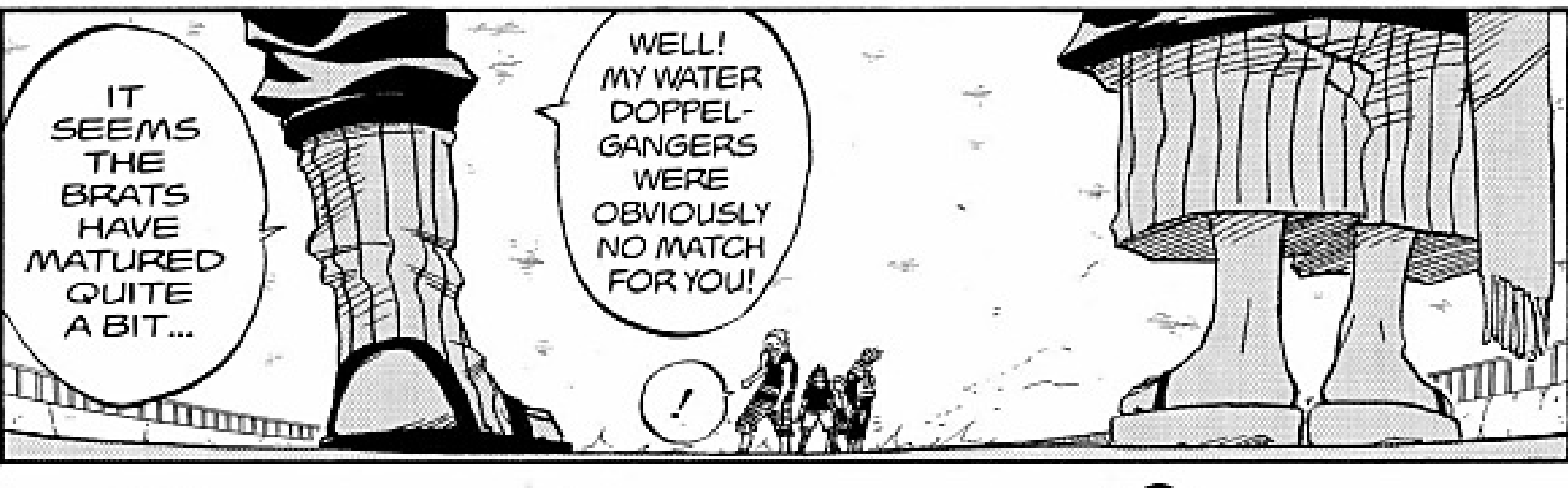
SPLASH

SPLATTER

DRIP
SPLAT
!
DRIP
SHHHF







...INTO WORTHY RIVALS... EH, HAKU?

INDEED!


Number 23:
Ambush Times Two!
LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT.
OH!

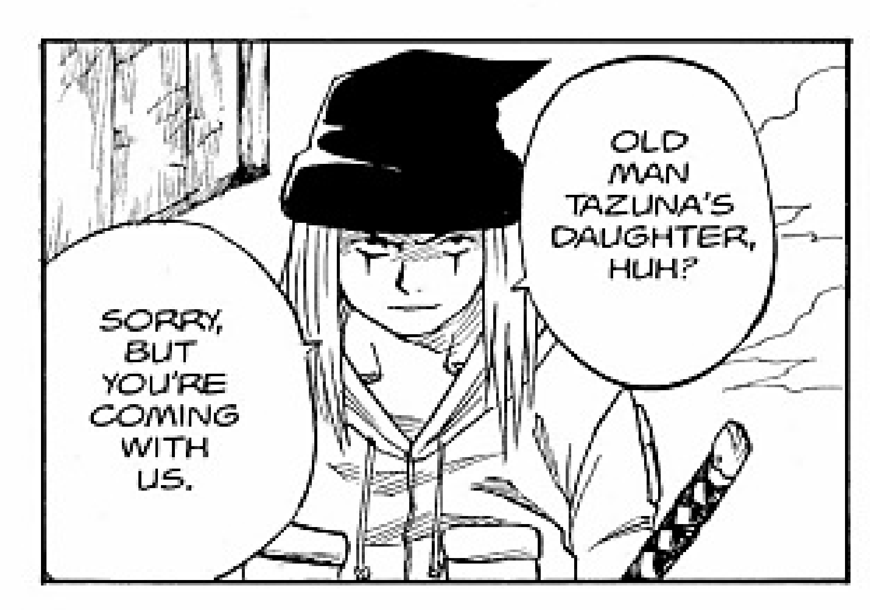


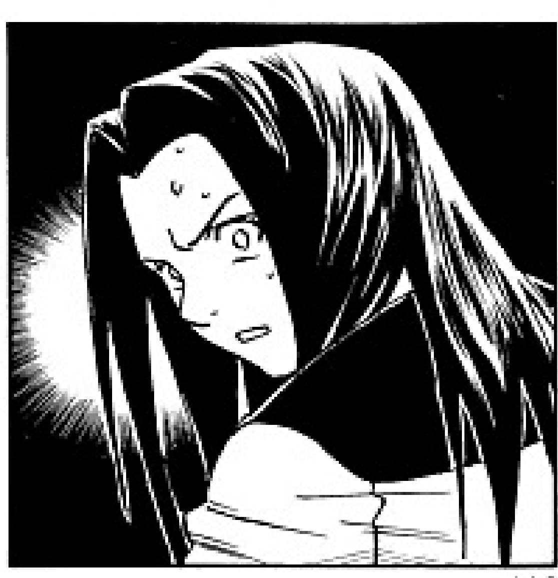
IT SEEMS THE BRAT HAS MATURED INTO A WORTHY RIVAL... EH, HAKU?
INDEED!


OUR MYSTERIOUS MASKED FRIEND...
... IS PLAYING ON ZABUZA'S TEAM.
HE HAS NERVE, SHOWING UP LIKE THIS!
THIS ONE'S MINE.
EH...?
THAT WAS QUITE A SHOW YOU PUT ON BEFORE,
BUT WE'RE ON TO YOU NOW... AND I HATE HAM ACTORS!
SAKURA CHALLENGES EVERYTHING NARUTO SAYS OR DOES... BUT SHE TAKES SASUKE COMPLETELY AT FACE VALUE, WITHOUT QUESTION.
SASUKE'S SO COOL!! ♡
IMPRESSIVE KID, ISN'T HE?
EVEN IF YOUR WATER DOPPELGANGERS HAVE ONLY A TENTH OF THE STRENGTH OF THE ORIGINALS...


...IT'S AMAZING HE WAS ABLE TO DO SO WELL.
BUT WE'RE STILL ON THE OFFENSIVE.
GO!
YES, SIR.
!!
WHAT...?!
SHF
!!

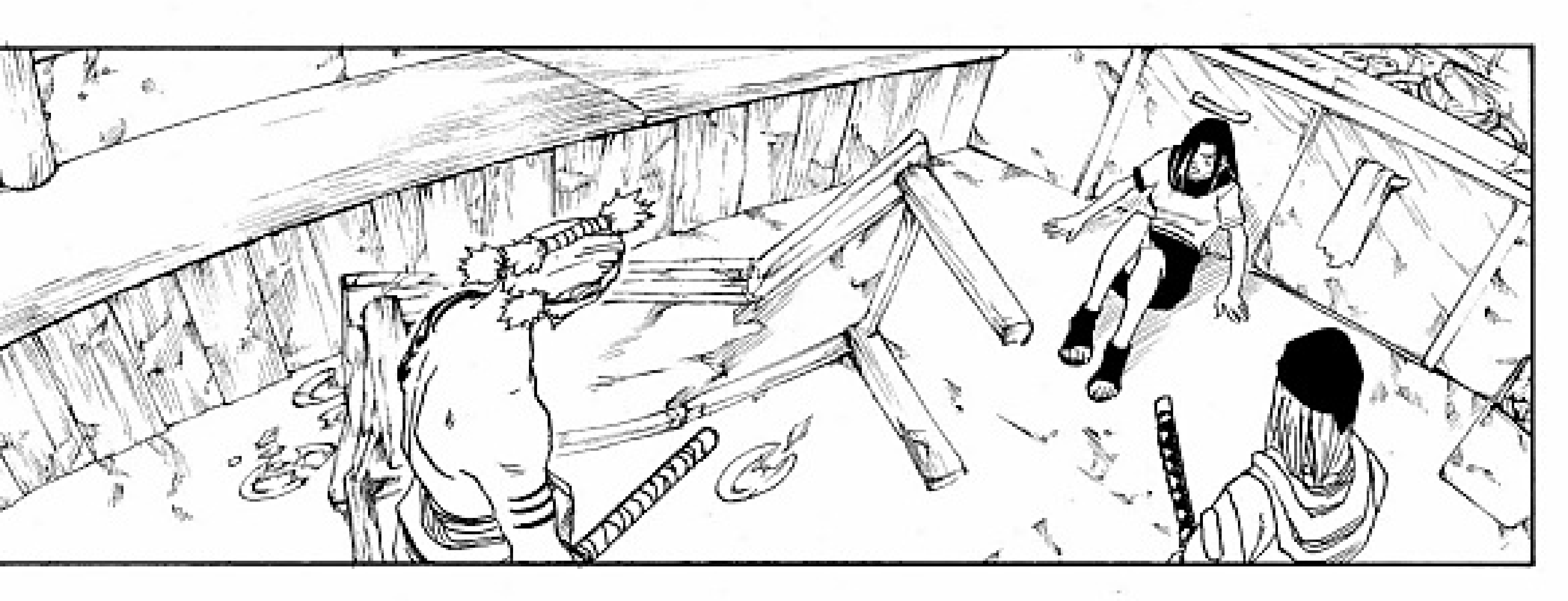

TAK
!
TAK


OLD MAN TAZUNA'S DAUGHTER, HUH?
SORRY, BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

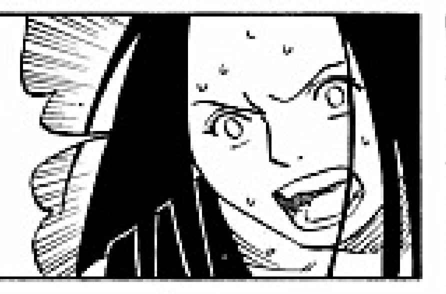



!!
CRASH
AIEE—!!


SPLASH




MAMA!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, BRAT?!

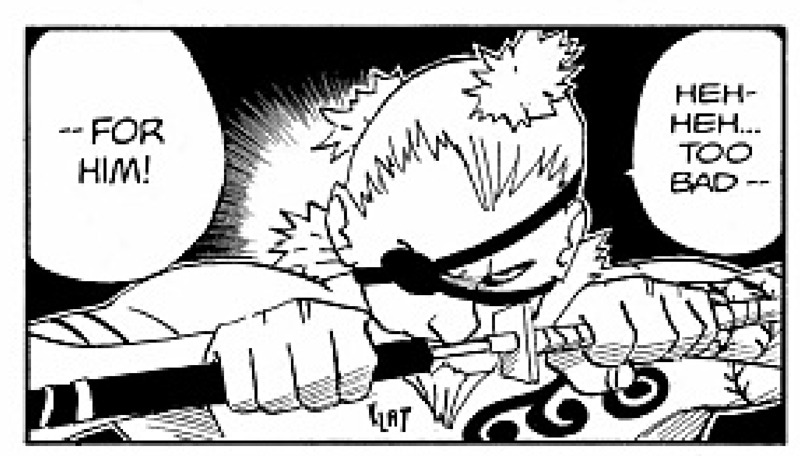



RUN, INARI! DON'T COME IN!!!


SHOULD WE GRAB HIM, TOO?
WE ONLY NEED ONE HOSTAGE.


READ THIS WAY


FLINCH
HOSTAGE...?!


HEH-HEH... TOO BAD --
-- FOR HIM!


!!
SHIVER

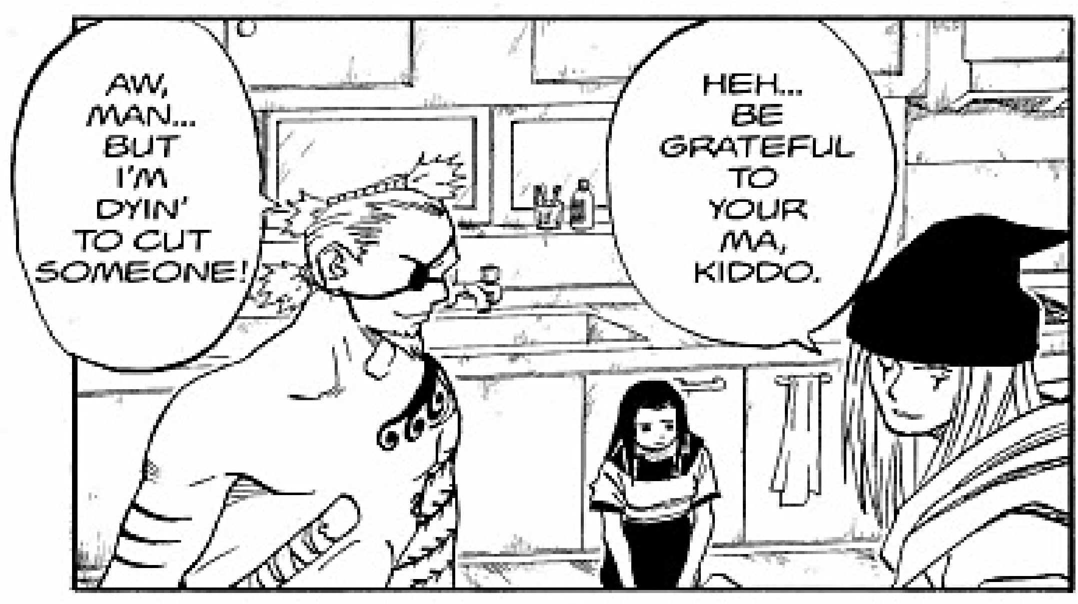

WAIT!!


...IF YOU DARE TOUCH MY CHILD... I'LL BITE THROUGH MY TONGUE AND DROWN IN MY OWN BLOOD.

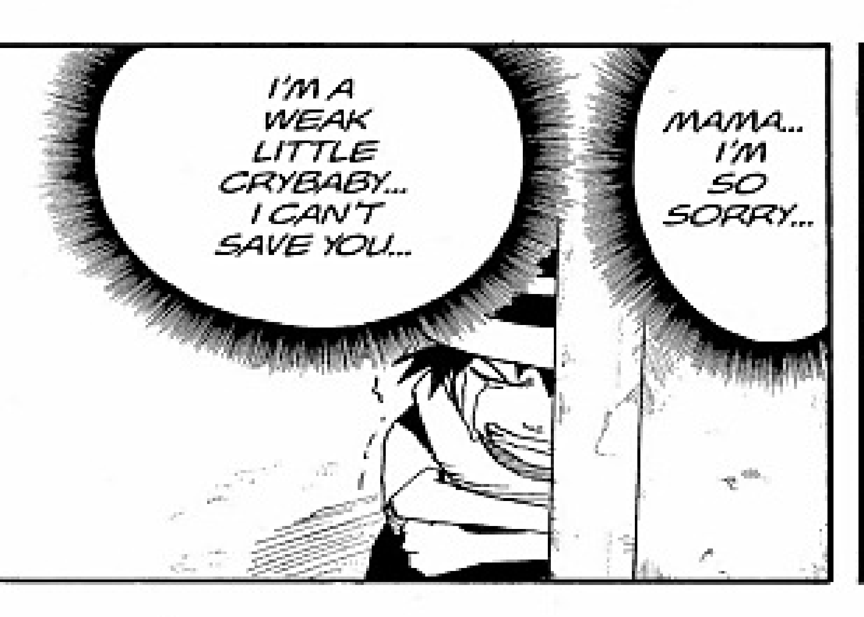

THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR A LIVE HOSTAGE?


READ
THIS
WAY




HEH... BE GRATEFUL TO YOUR MA, KIDDO.
AW, MAN... BUT I'M DYIN' TO CUT SOMEONE!


RELAX. YOU GAVE YOUR BLADE A PRETTY GOOD WORKOUT BEFORE WE EVEN GOT HERE.
SO GET OVER IT, AND LET'S GO.
SOB
SOB
SOB


MAMA... I'M SO SORRY...
I'M A WEAK LITTLE CRYBABY... I CAN'T SAVE YOU...


AND I'M AFRAID!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!


DRIP
DRIP


YOU BIG BABY!!



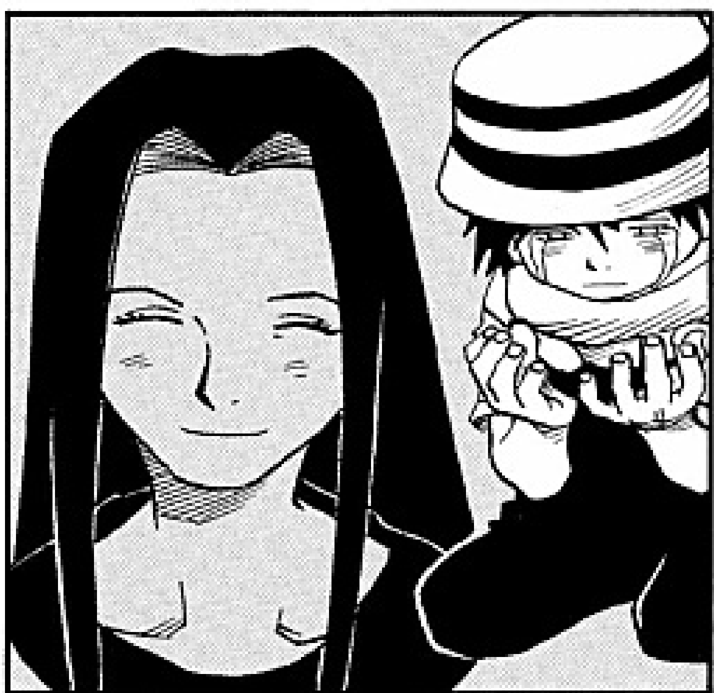

...
YOU FIGURE IT'S NOBLE TO STAR IN A MELODRAMA AND TREAT EVERYONE AROUND YOU LIKE GUESTS AT YOUR PITY PARTY?


I THINK ONE DAY HE MUST HAVE JUST GOTTEN FED UP WITH CRYING.


IT TAKES A REALLY BIG MAN TO SIT AROUND AND CRY... YOU BRAT!
YOU BIG BABY!!!!


...


HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE STRONG.
HE KNOWS WHAT IT COSTS AND WHAT IT'S WORTH...
...JUST AS YOUR FATHER DID.

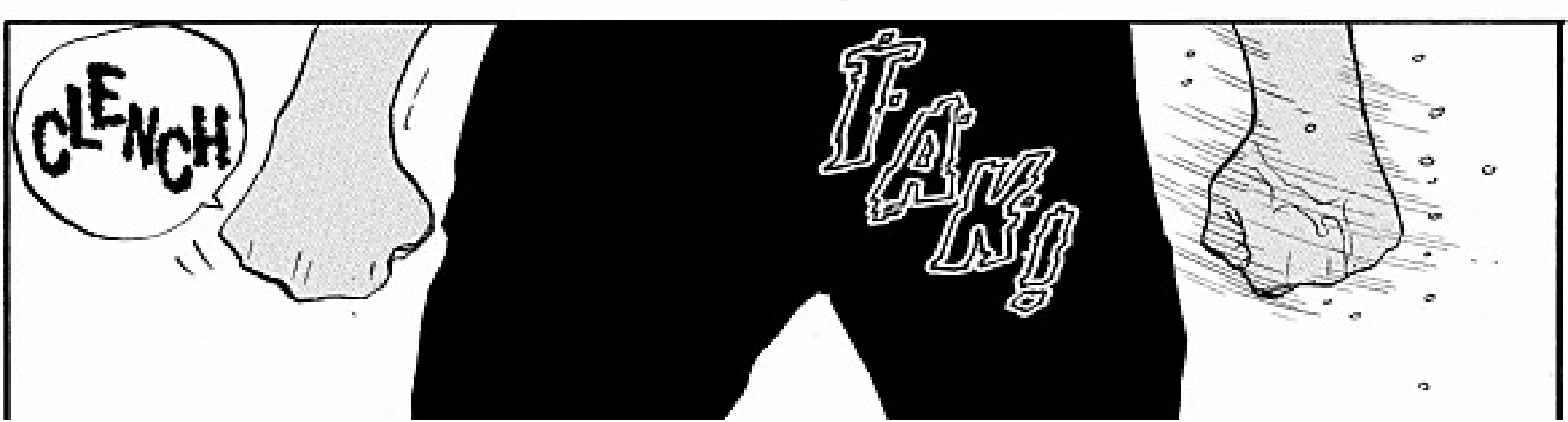


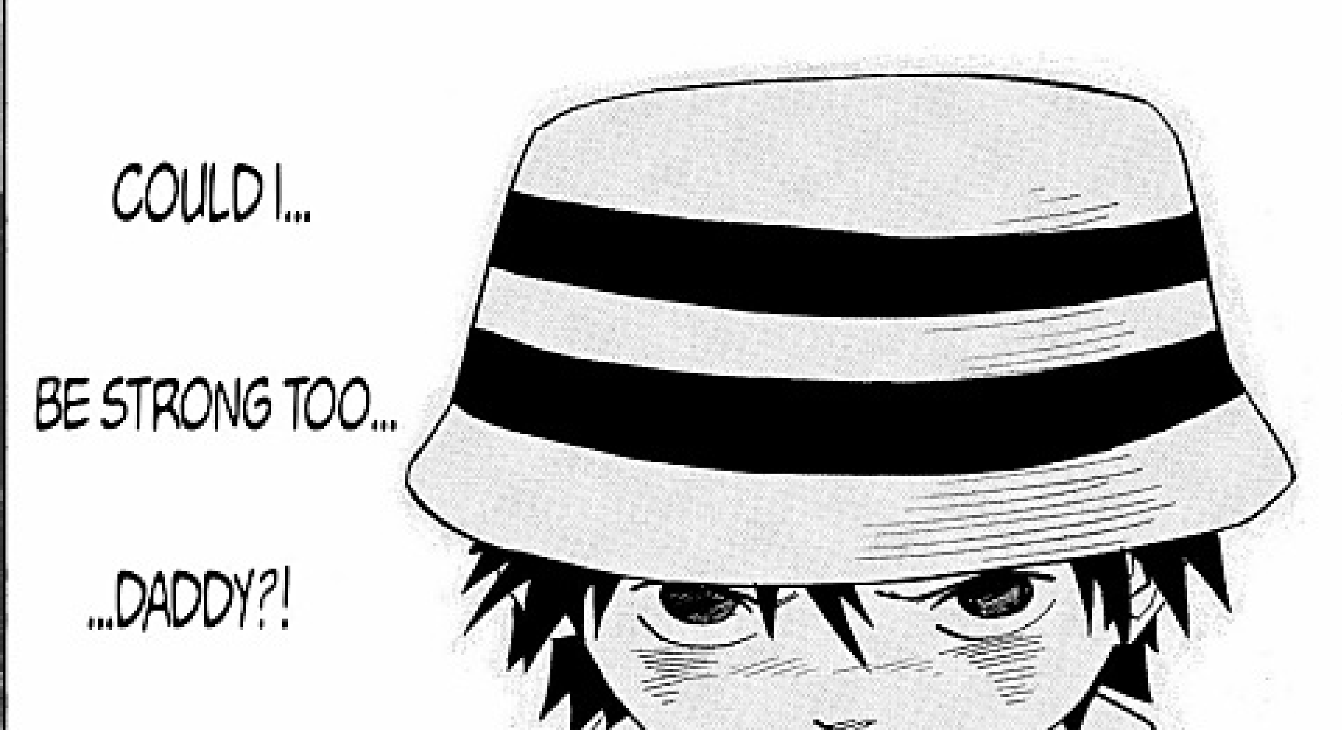

IF SOMETHING IS PRECIOUS TO YOU...
...PROTECT IT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU'VE GOT!...
...EVEN AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!

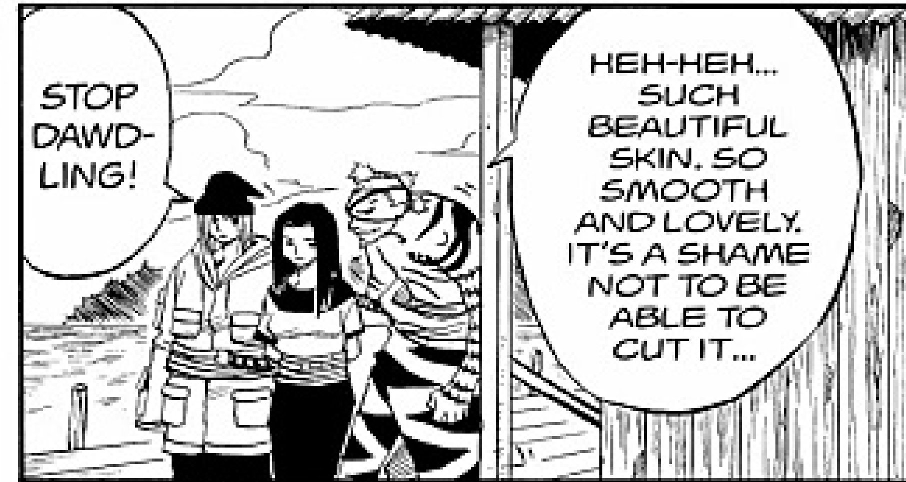


EVERYONE ELSE IS... SO AWESOME...

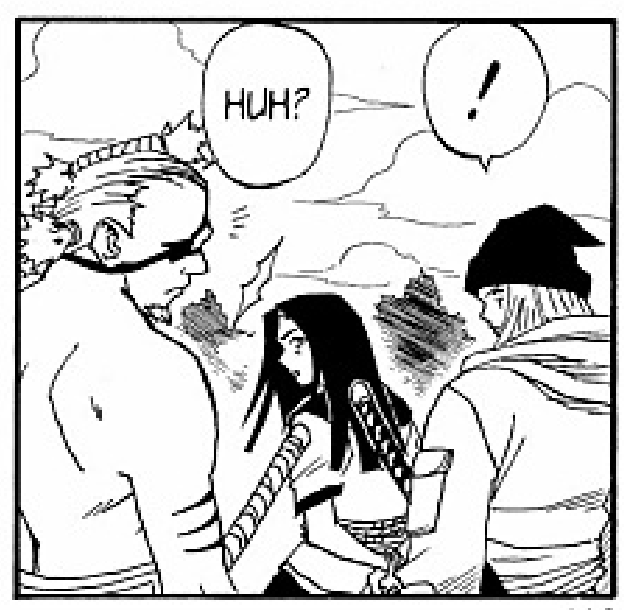
SO COOL...

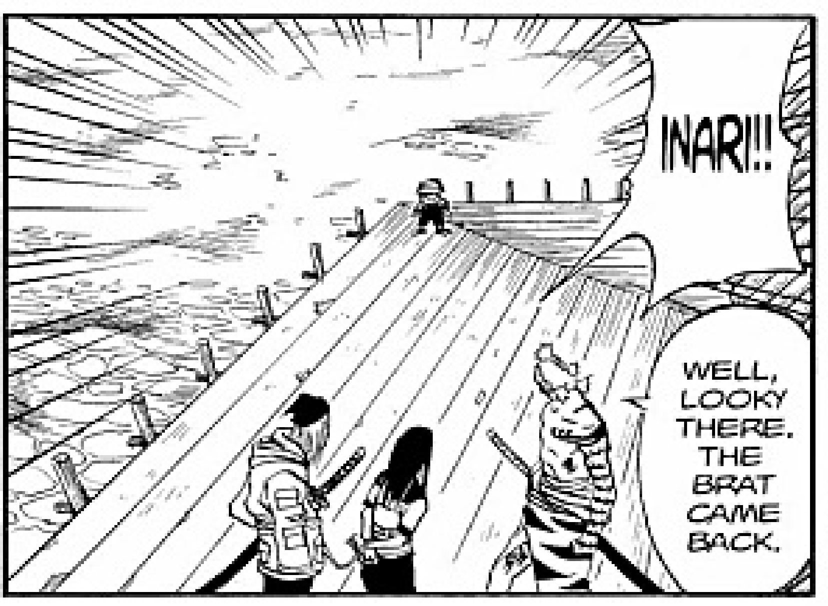
...AND STRONG...

CLENCH
FAKE!


COULD I...
BE STRONG TOO...
...DADDY?!
...CAN I...

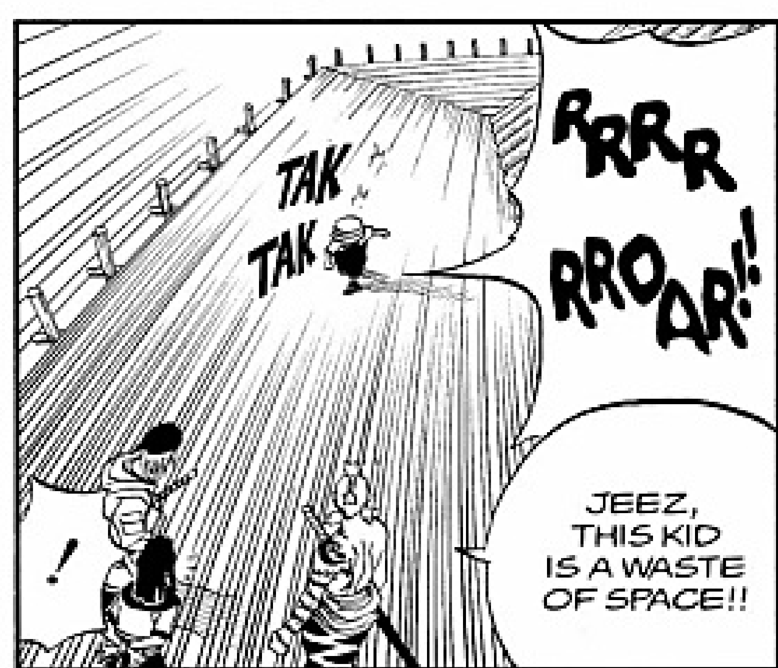

HEH-HEH... SUCH BEAUTIFUL SKIN. SO SMOOTH AND LOVELY. IT'S A SHAME NOT TO BE ABLE TO CUT IT...
STOP DAWD-LING!


WAIT!!
STAMP

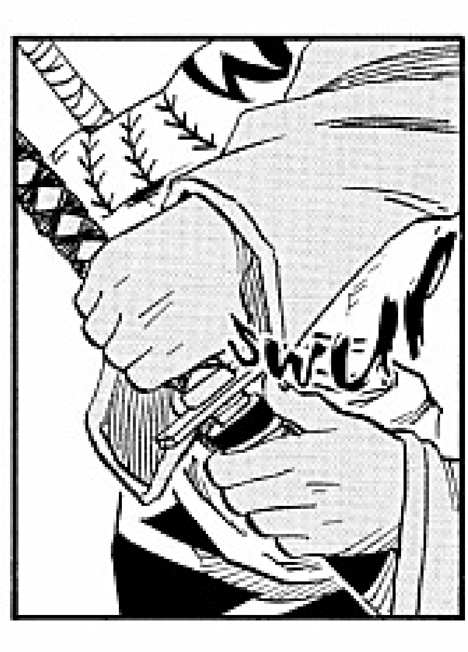

!
HUH?


INARI!!
WELL, LOOKY THERE. THE BRAT CAME BACK.


Y...
YES, I... I CAN...!!
YOU GET AWAY FROM MY MAMA--!!


RRRR RROAR!!
TAK TAK
!
JEEZ, THIS KID IS A WASTE OF SPACE!!


!
SO CUT HIM...
YEAH...!
KLAT


SWF!!


INARI!


SLASH

!

!

SNK

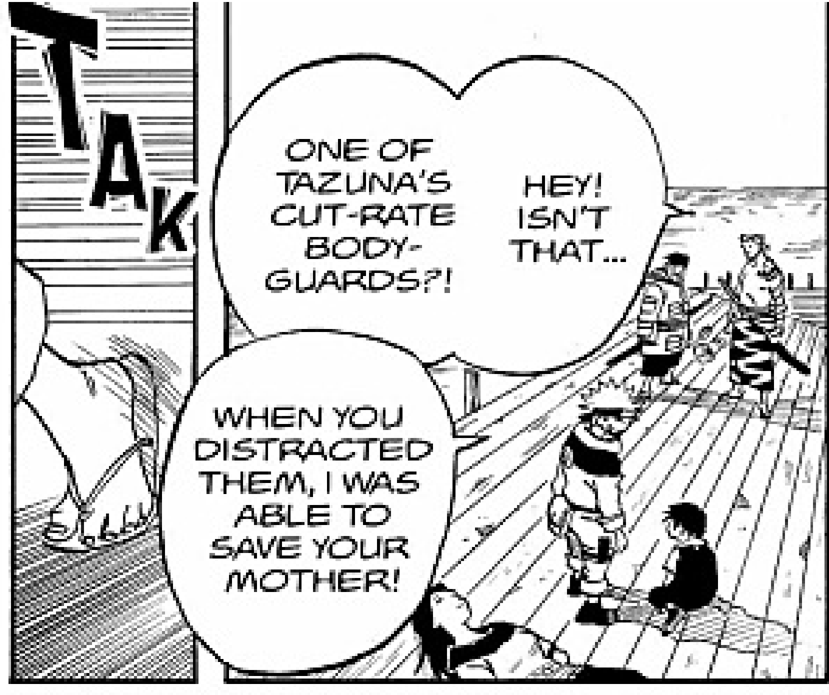


SORRY I'M LATE.

!



WAY TO GO, INARI!!!


HEY! ISN'T THAT...
ONE OF TAZUNA'S CUT-RATE BODY-GUARDS?!
WHEN YOU DISTRACTED THEM, I WAS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR MOTHER!
TAK


NARUTO! WILL YOU BE OKAY?
TAK
TAK


NO SWEAT.
KLIK



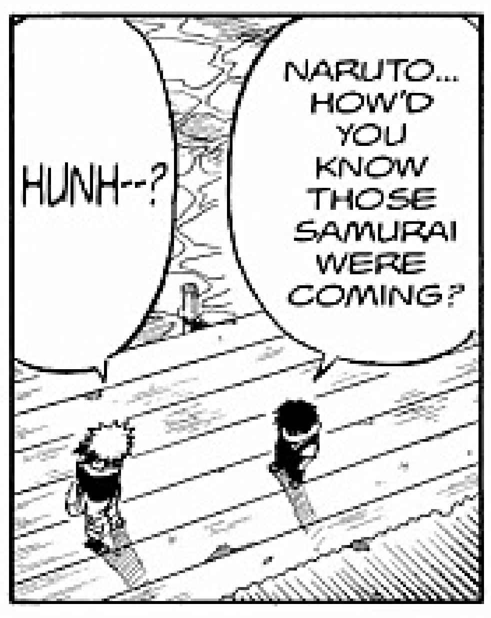

SHING
SHING

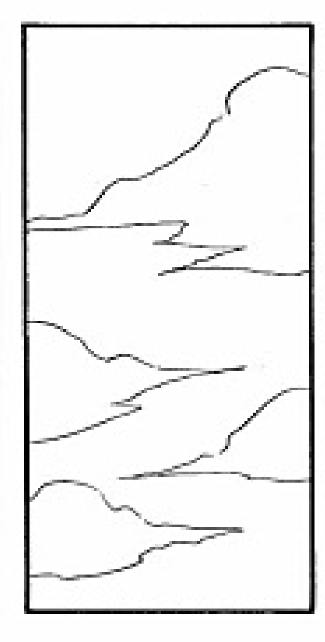

HAH! YOU EXPECT THOSE TOYS TO AFFECT US?
PING
PING


SUCKERS!


POW


!
THERE WAS A STUCK PIG BACK IN THE FOREST, CUT TO RIBBONS WITH A SWORD...
...AND TREES WITH FRESH DEEP SLASHES IN THEIR BARK, GOING IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR HOUSE. WASN'T TOO HARD TO FIGURE OUT... I GOT WORRIED.

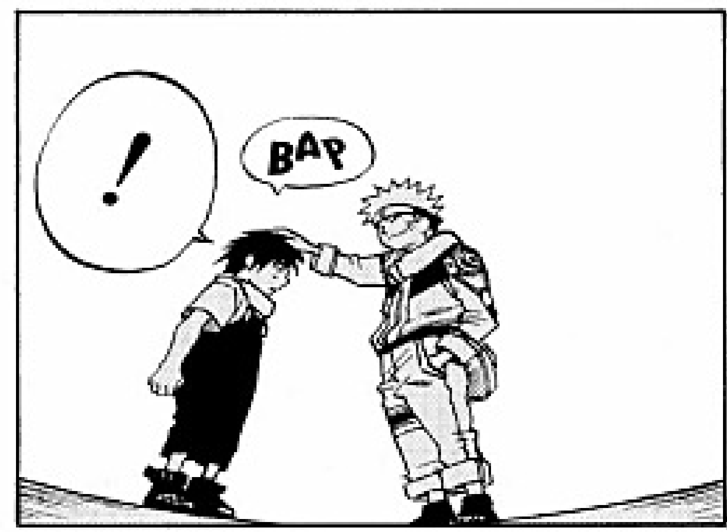

NARUTO... HOW'D YOU KNOW THOSE SAMURAI WERE COMING?
HUNH--?




WHY?
WELL, UMMM...


INARI... I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.
!


BUT FORGET THAT...


!
BAP


I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A BABY.
AND IT'S NOT TRUE. OKAY?

YOU'RE A BIG, STRONG BOY--!

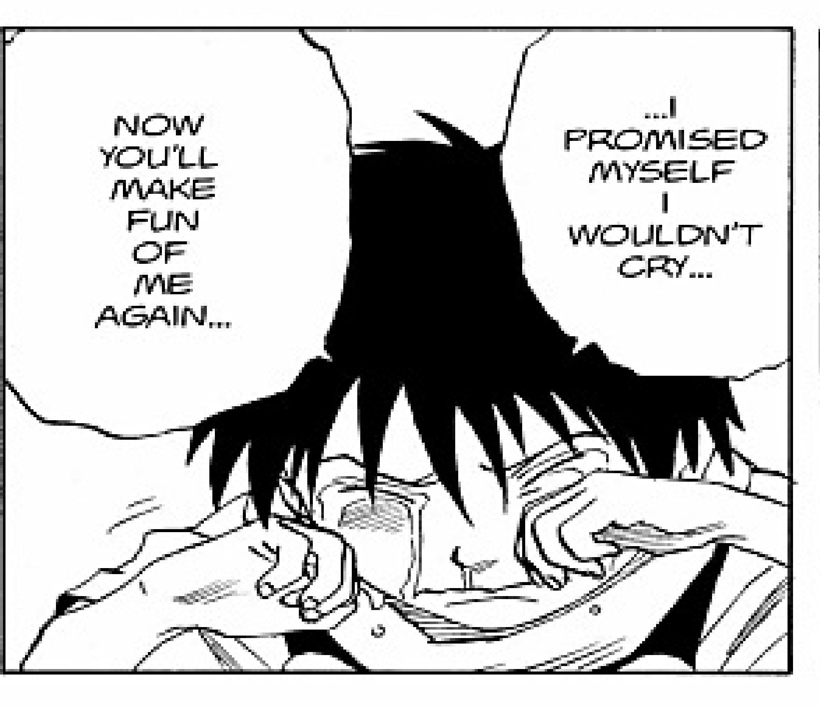




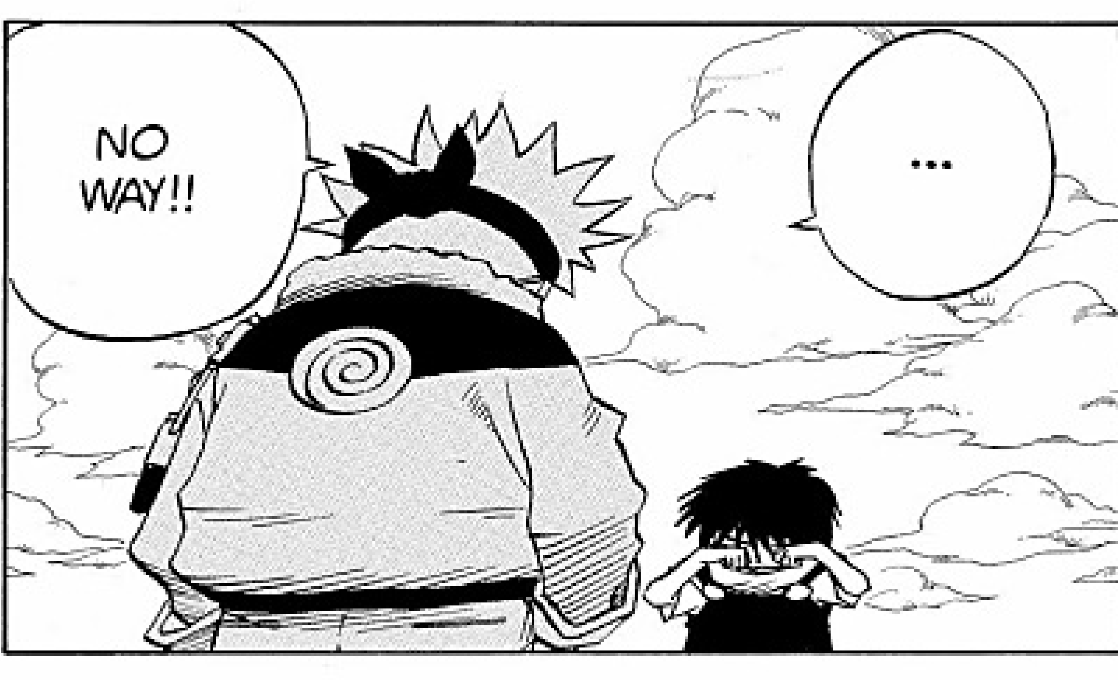




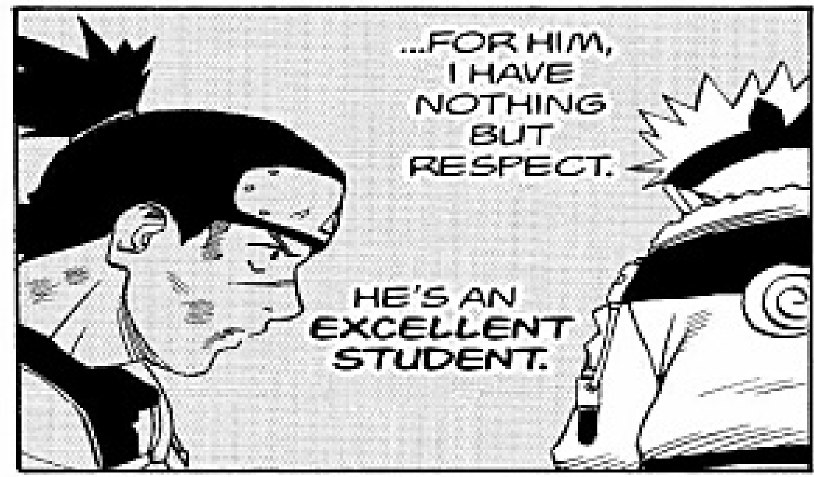


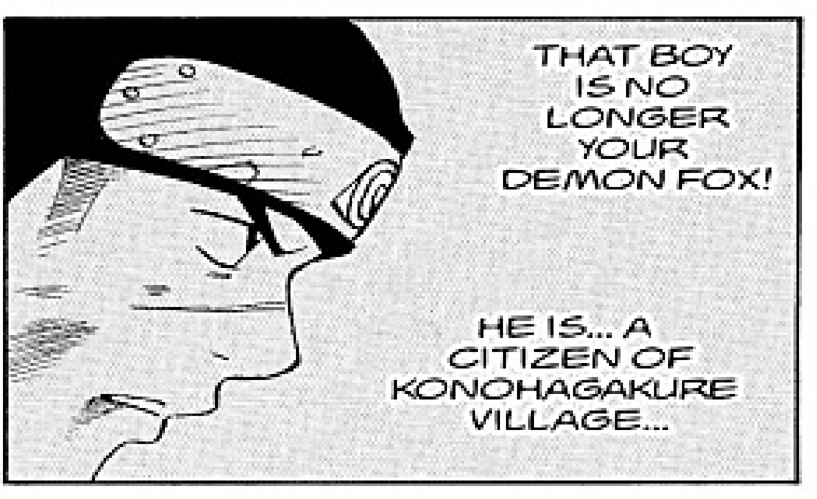



READ
THIS
WAY


...
NO WAY!!

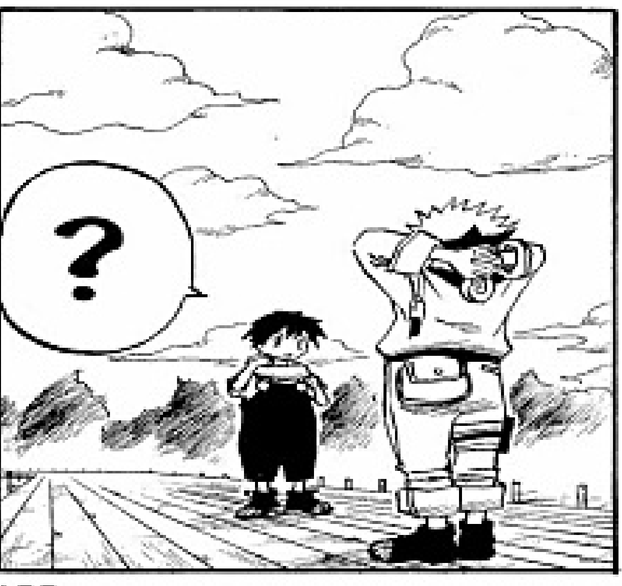

HUH?


...FOR HIM, I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT.
HE'S AN EXCELLENT STUDENT.


THAT BOY IS NO LONGER YOUR DEMON FOX!
HE IS... A CITIZEN OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE...


...UZUMAKI NARUTO!


...


?

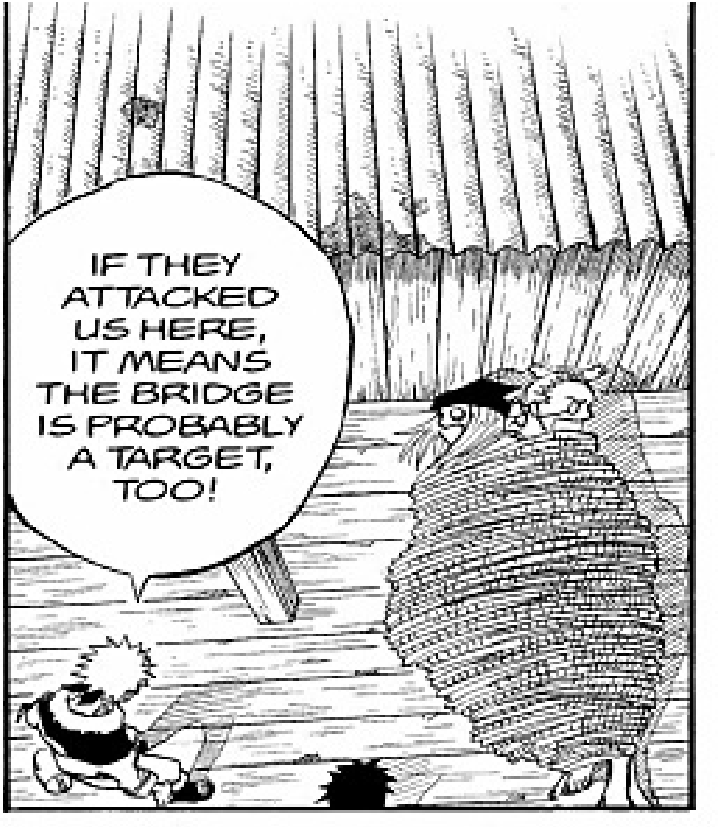
NOTHING WRONG WITH CRYING...

...WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY!

















YOU BET!

SWIPE

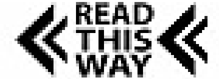
MAN, THIS "HERO" THING IS A LOT OF WORK!!

CLENCH



Number 24: Speed!!




READ
THIS
WAY

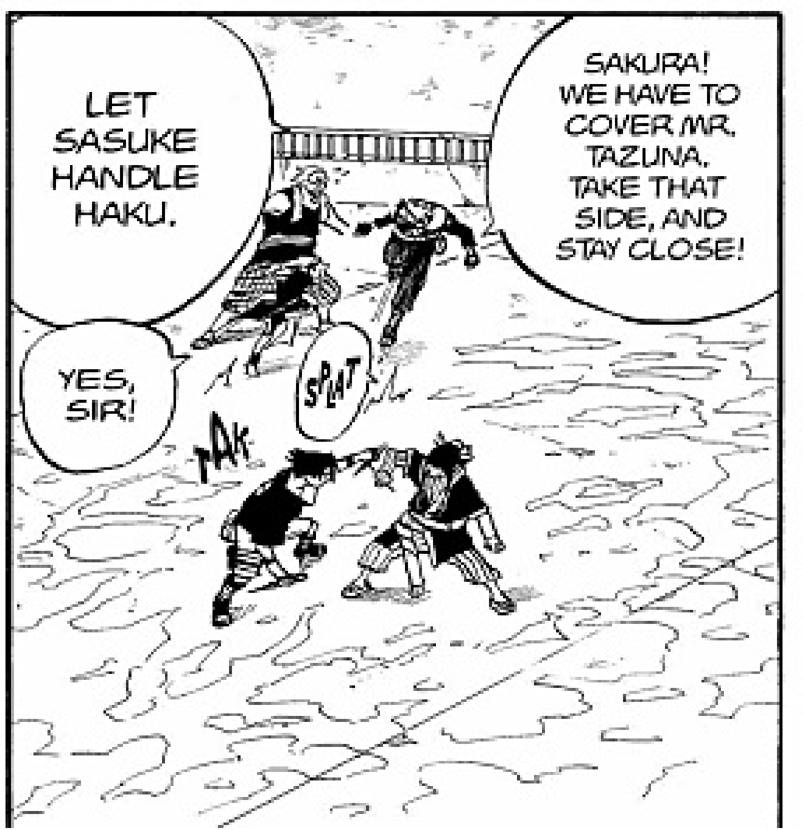





CHING

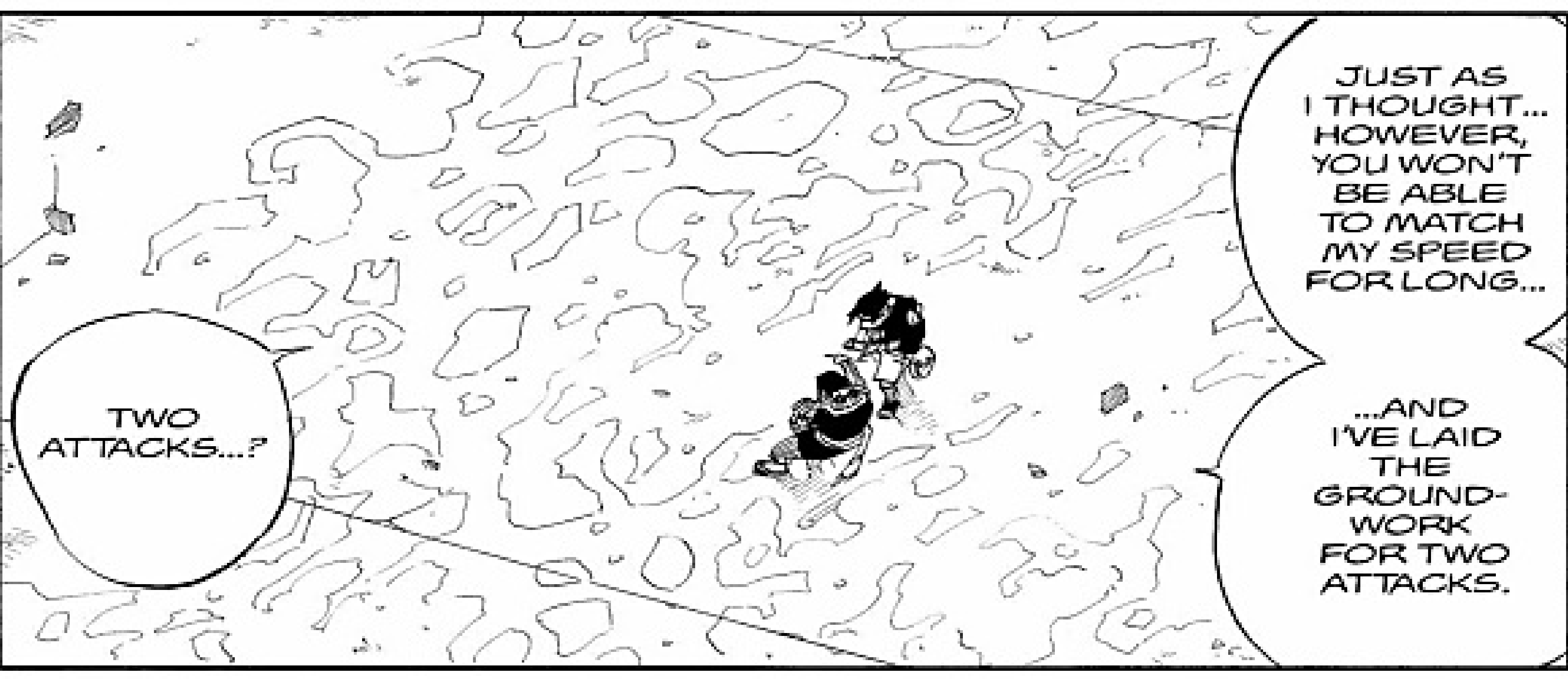

AHA...
HE CAN KEEP UP WITH HAKU'S SPEED.

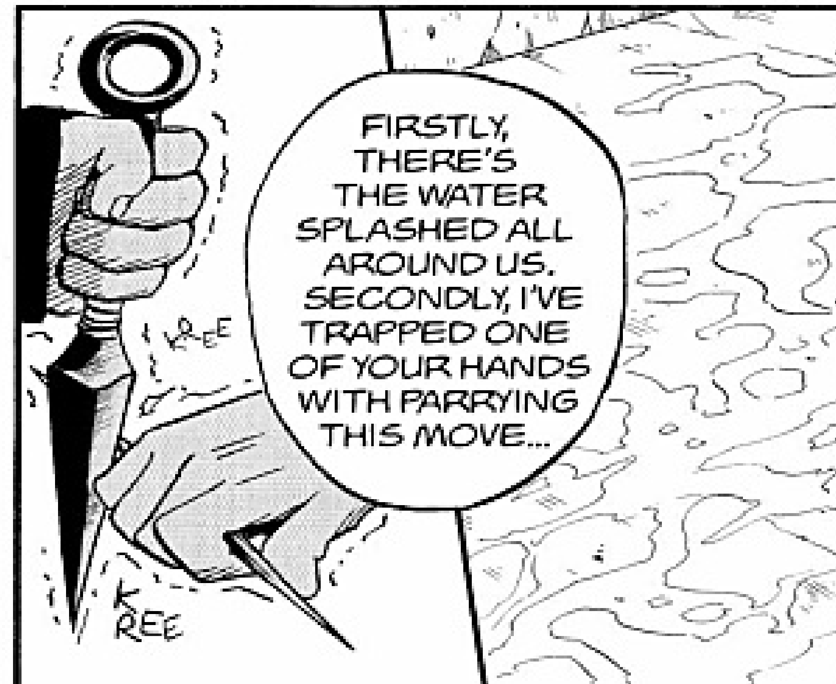

HMM...


SAKURA! WE HAVE TO COVER MR. TAZUNA. TAKE THAT SIDE, AND STAY CLOSE!
LET SASUKE HANDLE HAKU.
SPLAT
YES, SIR!
TAK


I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, BUT...
YOU PROBABLY WON'T LEAVE QUIETLY, WILL YOU?...


DON'T BE STUPID...


JUST AS I THOUGHT... HOWEVER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MATCH MY SPEED FOR LONG...
...AND I'VE LAID THE GROUND-WORK FOR TWO ATTACKS.
TWO ATTACKS...?


FIRSTLY, THERE'S THE WATER SPLASHED ALL AROUND US. SECONDLY, I'VE TRAPPED ONE OF YOUR HANDS WITH PARRYING THIS MOVE...
KREE
KREE


...WHICH LEAVES YOU ONLY ONE HAND FREE TO DEFEND YOURSELF FROM MY ATTACKS!

WITH JUST ONE HAND, HE'S...!!
WHAT?!
HE'S MAKING SIGNS WITH JUST ONE HAND?! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT...
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
STAMP
STAMP
SECRET ART OF WATER!
THE THOUSAND STINGING NEEDLES OF DEATH!
ZIPP
!
ZIP ZIPP





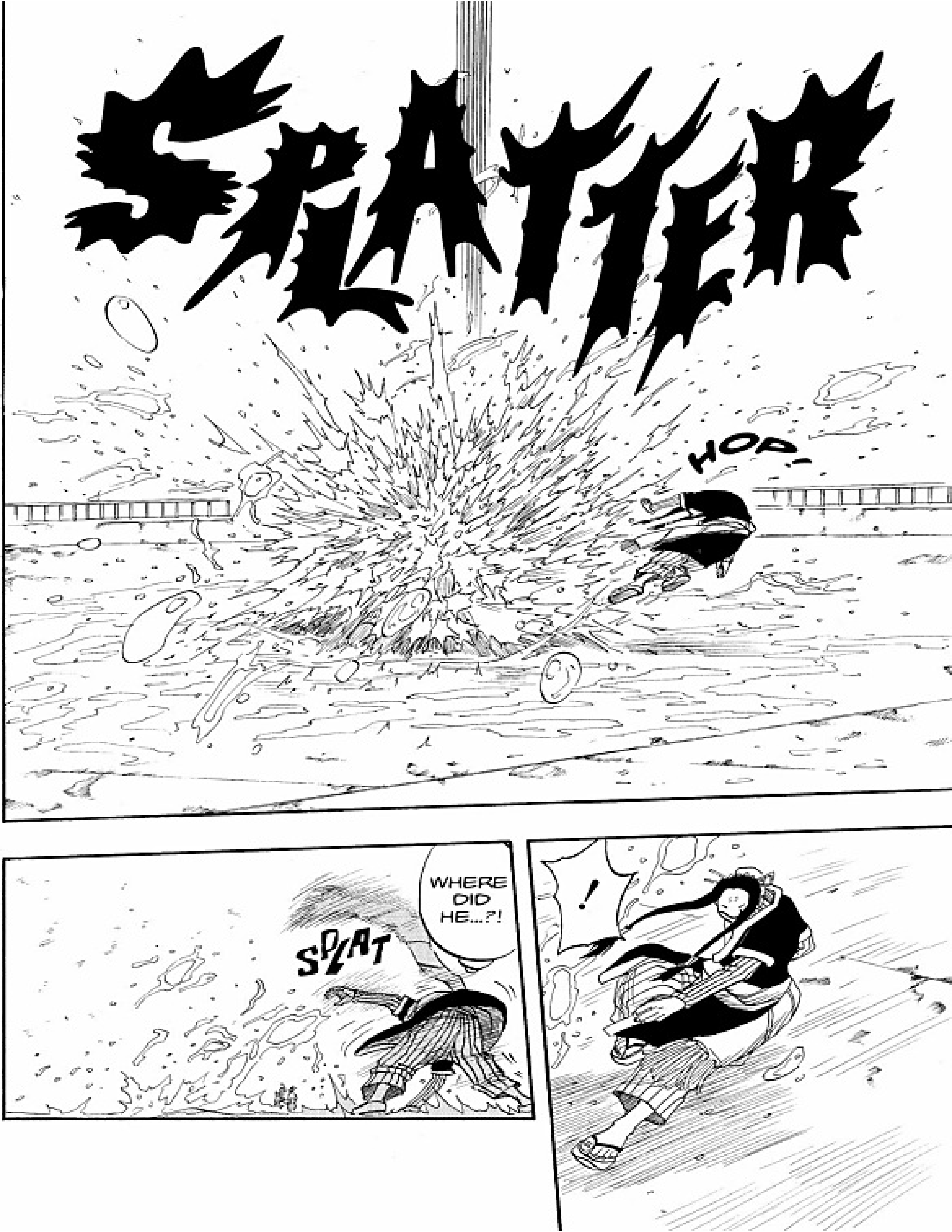








ZZZNG
...AND FOCUS IT IN MY FEET!!


SPLATTER
HOP-
WHERE DID HE...?!
SPLAT
!

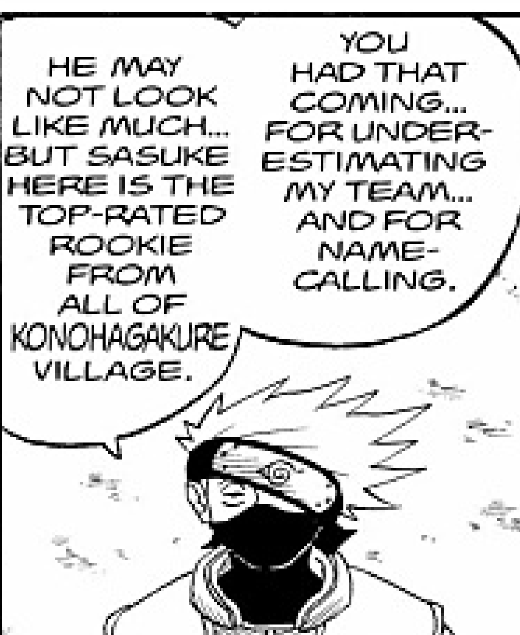

!
THUK THUK THUK
CHINNNG!
HOP
SPLASH
THOK
!!
YOU'RE NOT THAT FAST.
NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO WORRY...
...ABOUT DEFENDING YOURSELF FROM MY ATTACKS.


SWIPE
KASHING
SLASH
!



SWUP
FLIP
!
WHAP
...H... HE'S FAST...!!

HAKU... IS ACTUALLY LOSING A BATTLE OF SPEED?!
WHAT...?!
POW
YOU'RE FAST. I'M FASTER.
SKID
UHN!


YOU HAD THAT COMING... FOR UNDER-ESTIMATING MY TEAM... AND FOR NAME-CALLING.
HE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH... BUT SASUKE HERE IS THE TOP-RATED ROOKIE FROM ALL OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE.


AND SAKURA HERE IS OUR SHARPEST MIND...
OH, YES...
THAT'S FOR SURE!


AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST...
...LET'S NOT FORGET OUR OWN COMEDY NINJA – THE MAVERICK SHOW-STOPPER, THE ONE AND ONLY NARUTO!
AH-CHOO!







YES, I DO...
WHAT A PITY.
WH... WHY...
....DOES THE AIR SUDDENLY FEEL SO... COLD?



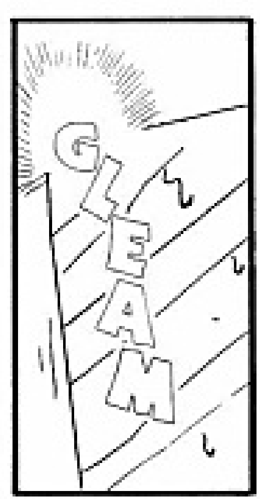


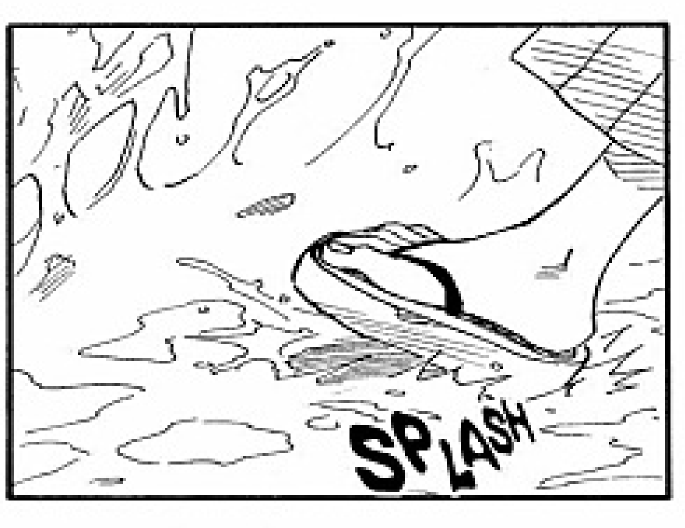

ICE CRYSTAL MAGIC MIRROR TECHNIQUE!

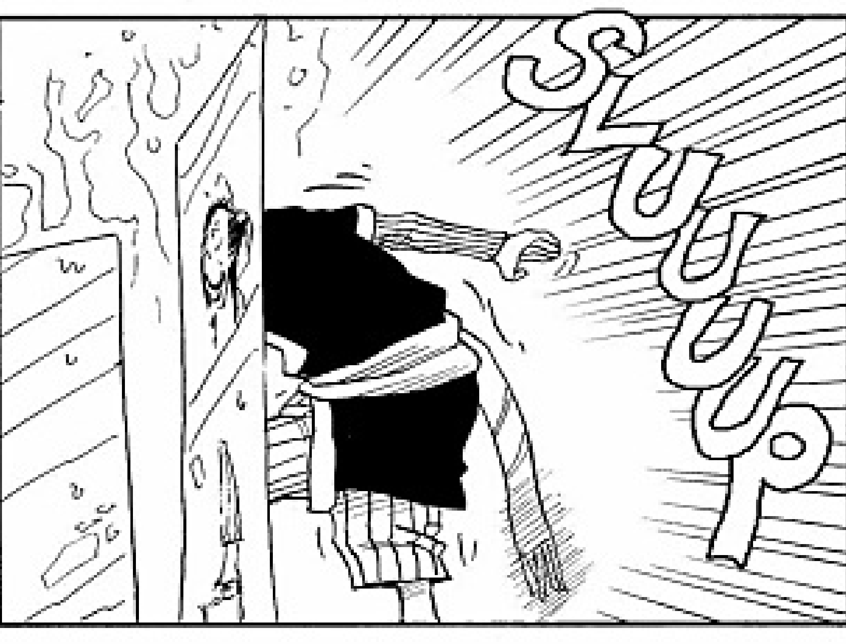

SECRET ART OF WATER...









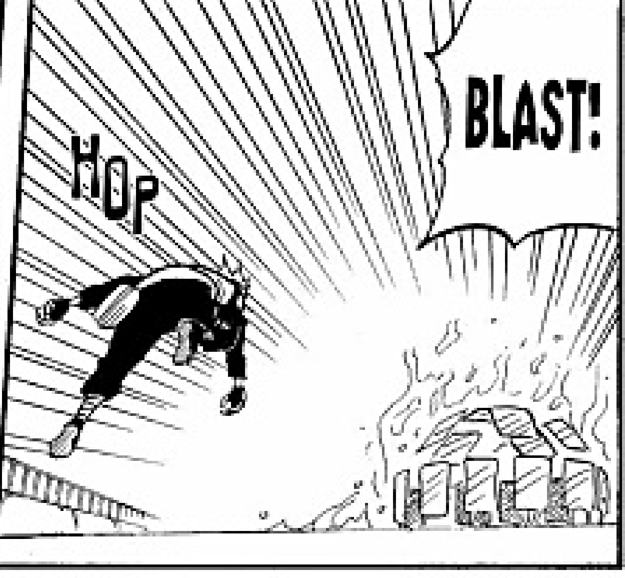


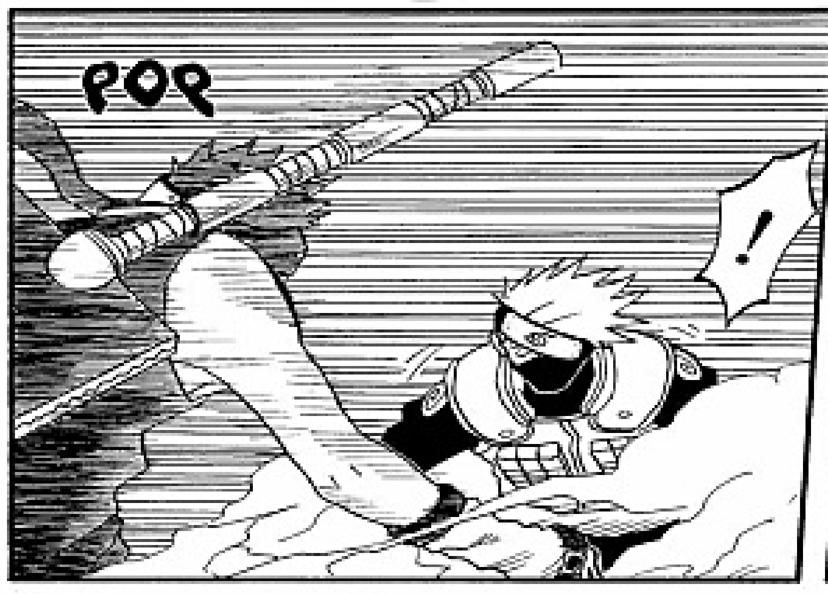




!
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP





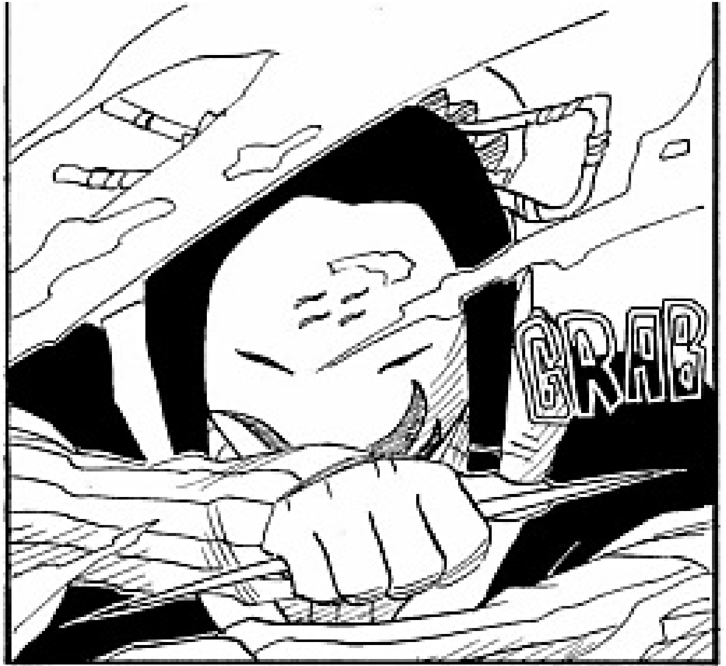








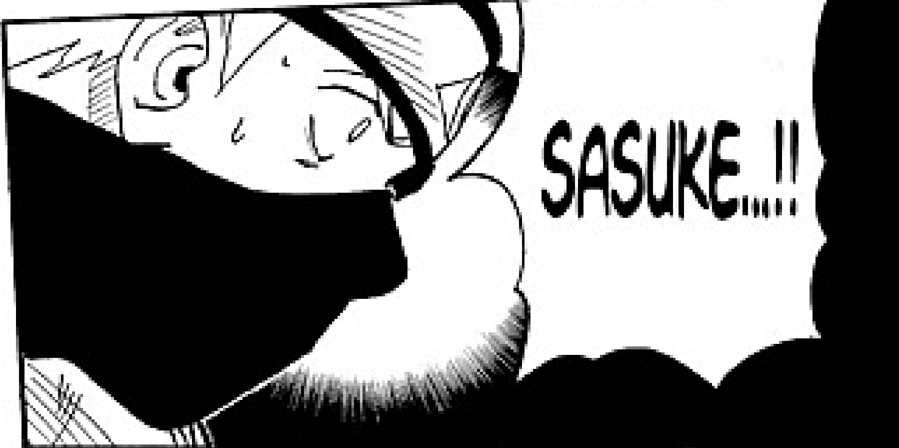
...LET ME SHOW YOU SOME REAL SPEED!





AUUGH!!

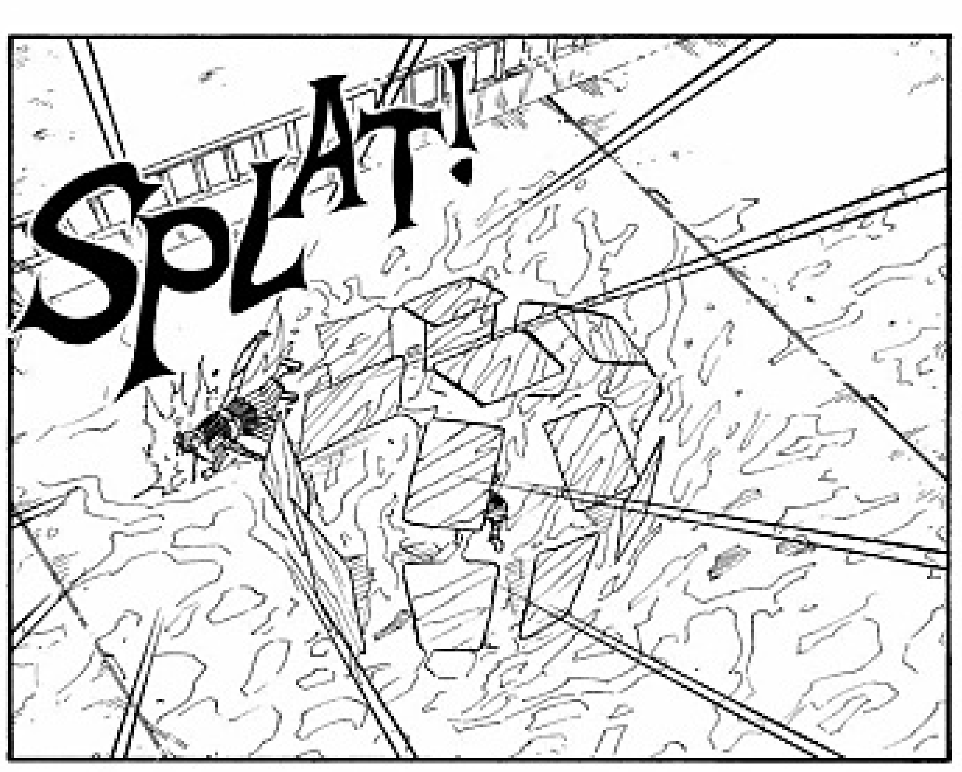
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH

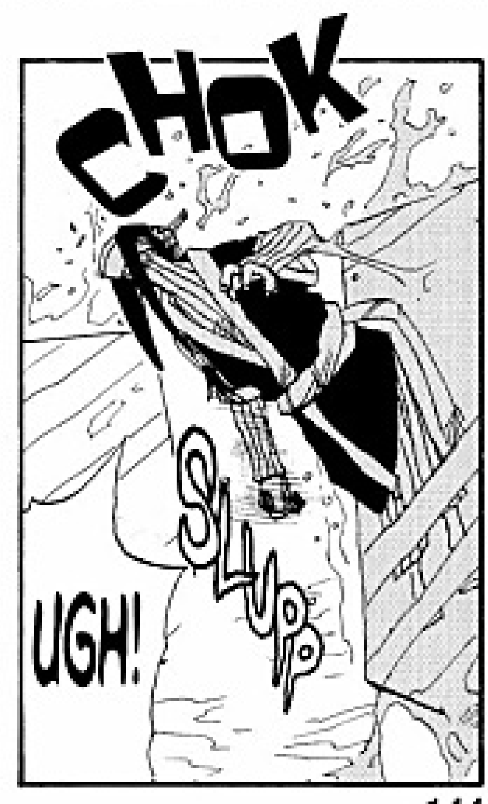





AAAARGH...!!
ANY SUDDEN MOVES AND I'LL KILL THOSE OTHER TWO!!
YOU...!!
SASUKE!!
GGH-GYAAGGH!
!!
...
MR. TAZUNA, I'M SORRY... BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT.
GO AHEAD.
I'LL BE FINE!
TAK
KLAP
SASUKE!!

POP
GRAB
!!
!
!!
HE CAUGHT IT!!





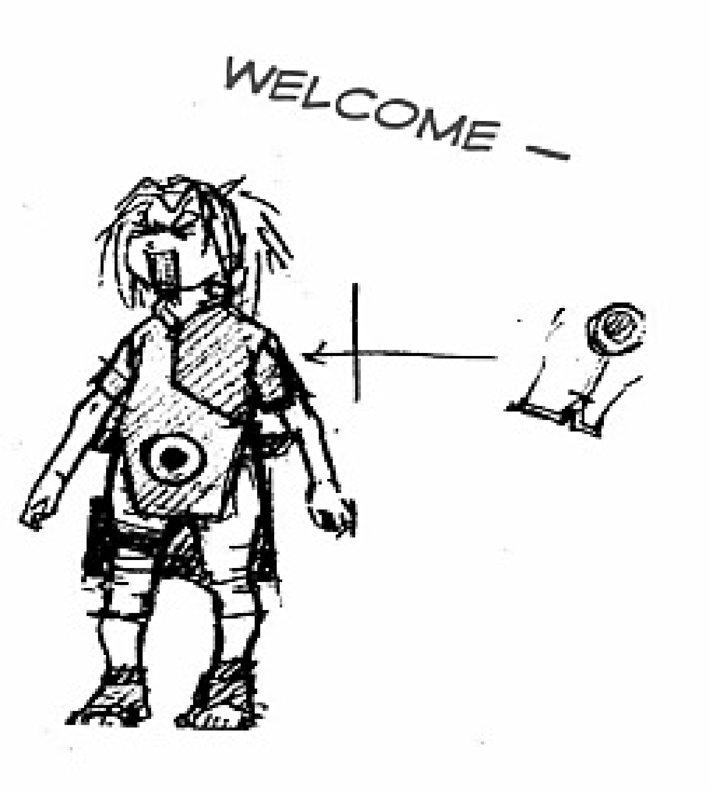

!
...WHO...?
OOONNN
THAT IDIOT...
...SHOW-OFF...
...THE MAVERICK SHOW-STOPPER...
COMEDY NINJA...?!
UZUMAKI NARUTO!
AT YOUR SERVICE!!

EARLY CHARACTER DESIGNS



This was how I first imagined Sakura. Let's face it...she's really not that cute, is she? Especially back then! But that was mostly because I'm not that good with female characters in general, so making one of them cute is always a big challenge for me.

When my editor, those around me, and even my own staff saw this design and read her personality profile, they all assured me that Sakura was "far from cute"! Heh-heh...



But I have my own reasons for being especially fond of Sakura, both in how she's designed, and in her personality. I believe everyone possesses an "Inner Sakura" type voice in their heart, including things like her entirely arbitrary choice of love object. I think it gives her a real humanity that's pretty sweet.

There's a lot more to being a good female manga character than just cuteness, you know....At least, that's my excuse. The troublemakers and the curmudgeons I can draw without breaking a sweat... but girls are really hard!


Number 25: For Your Dreams...!!

YOU KNOW HOW THE STORY GOES. THINGS LOOK BLEAK... TILL THE HERO ARRIVES --

HERE I AM, TO SAVE THE DAY.

WHAT WE NEEDED WAS AN AMBUSH. INSTEAD, HE ALL BUT PAINTS A TARGET ON HIMSELF!

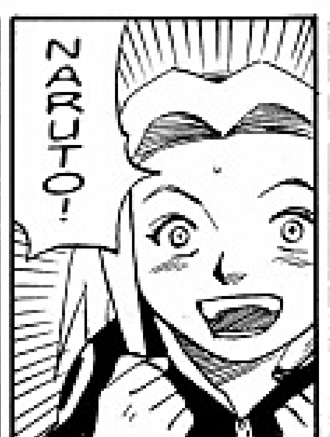
EXASPERATING LITTLE --!

AND THEN - **POW!!** - BYE-BYE BAD GUYS!












READ THIS WAY
TRAINING!!
TO BUILD UP MY STRENGTH!
HEH
!
BLAST!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
!
HERE IT COMES!!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
SHF

CHING CHING CHING

!

CHING CHING

!?

!?

PLINK TINK TINK



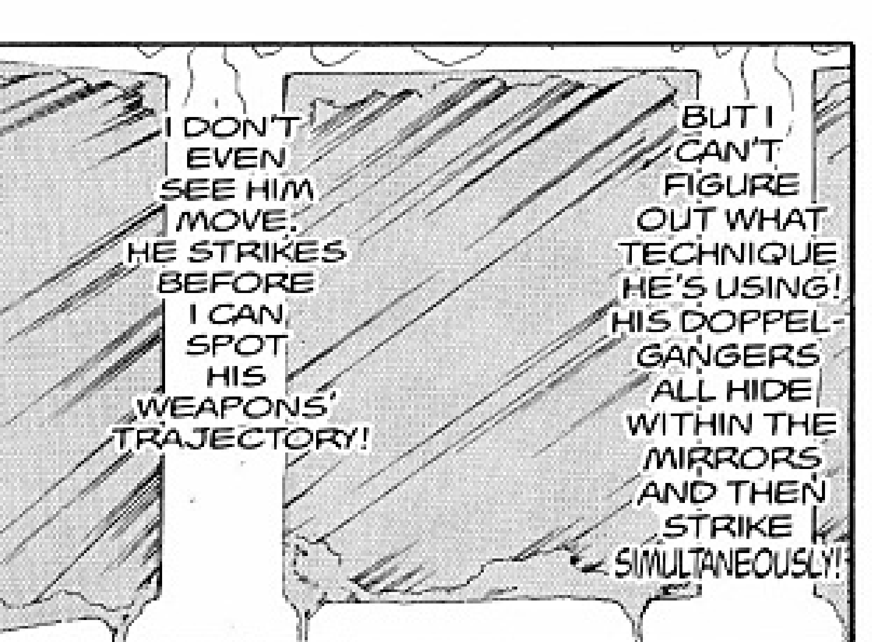


READ THIS WAY

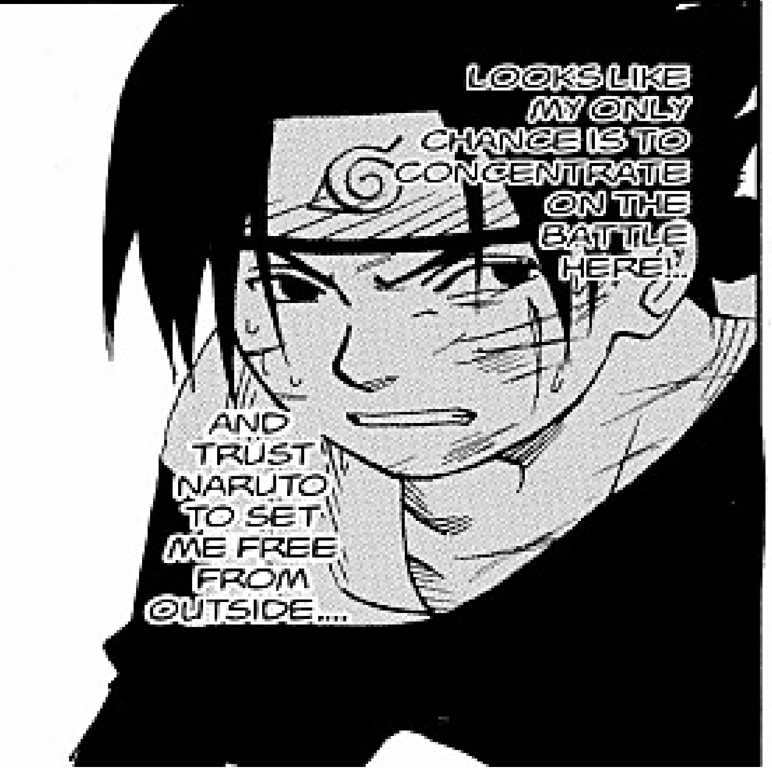










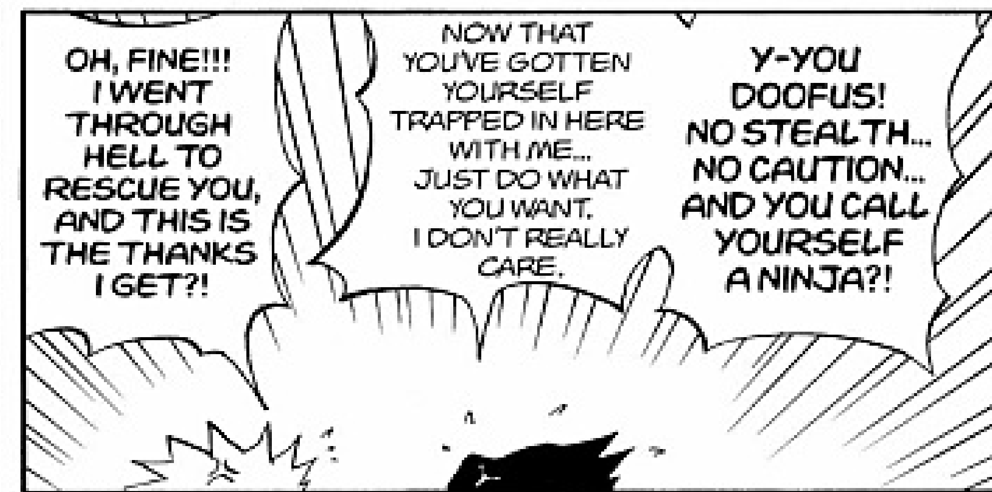


TA-DAA!!

YO! SASUKE! I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU!

FLIP

!!!



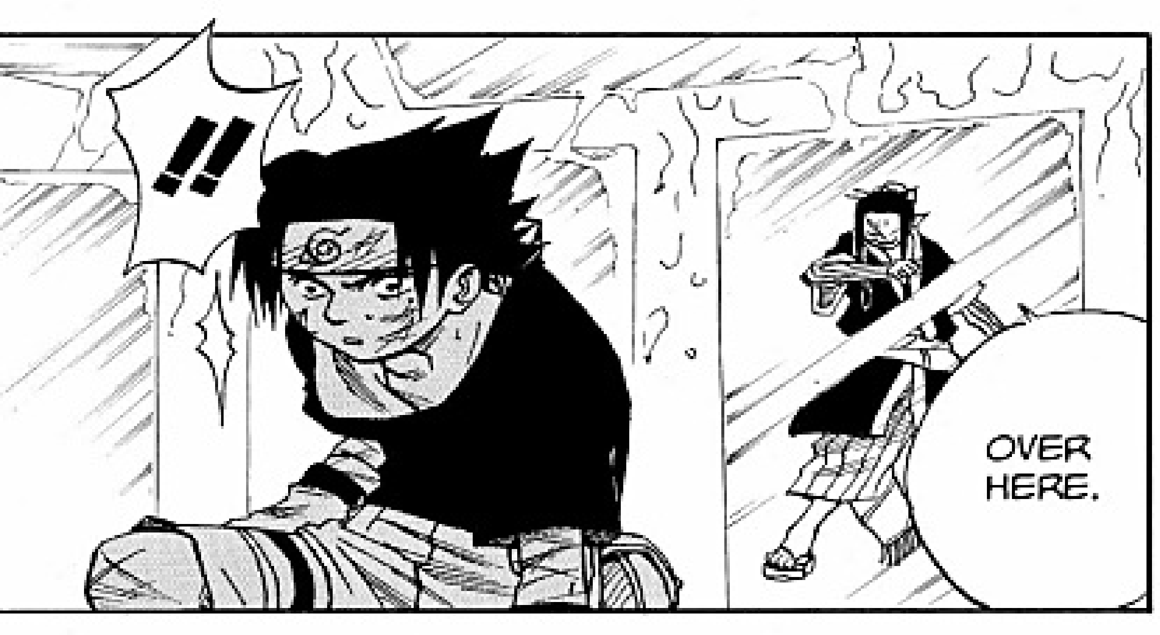







S-H-LOOO
!
!


SHLUK


!!
OVER HERE.


SO THAT'S IT! HIS REAL BODY IS OVER THERE!
POK

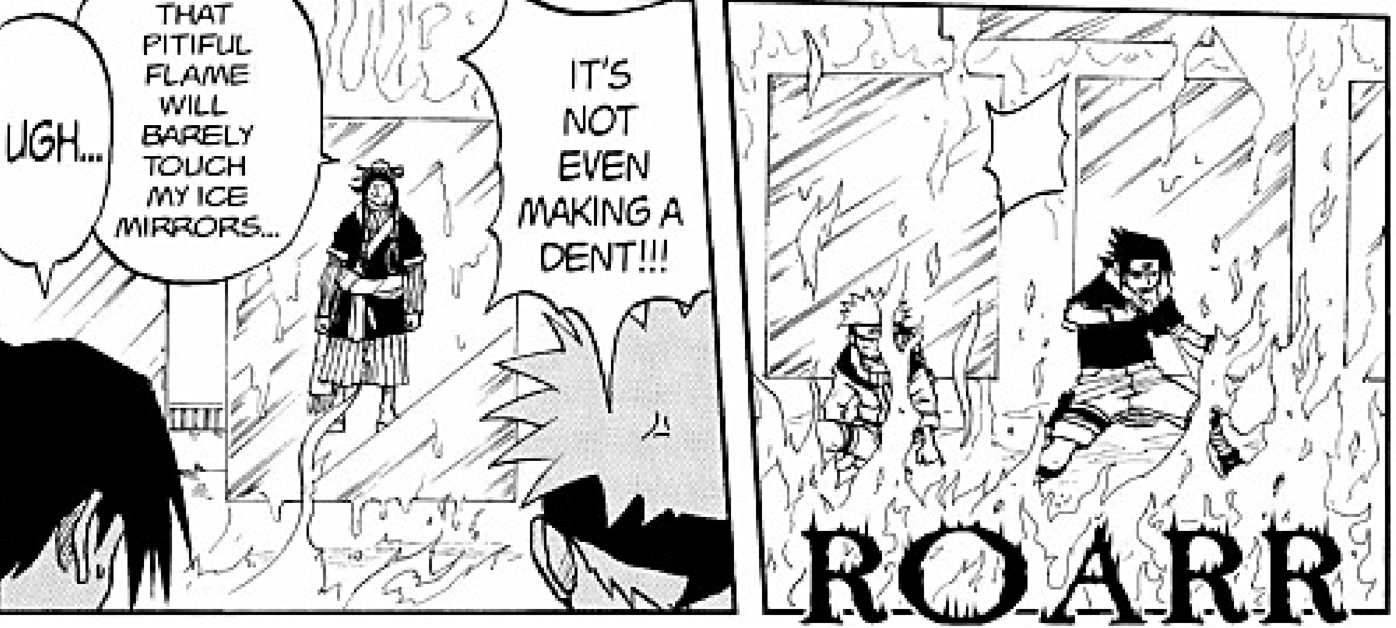

FIRE STYLE!
THESE ARE MIRRORS MADE OF ICE, SO...


LOOKS LIKE...
DESTROYING ALL THE MIRRORS MAY BE OUR ONLY HOPE!
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!!
BAM


HUH?

FLAR

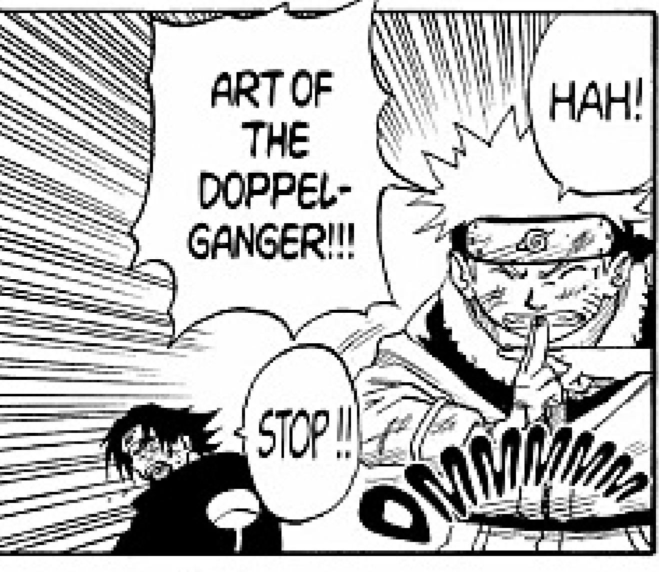
BLAZE OF GLORY!!!




AUGH!!
CLOP
GAAH!!


GLEAM
SHF

SHR
SHR
SHR


ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER!!!
HAH!
STOP!!


I CAN'T BE CAUGHT.
YOUR EYES WILL NEVER SEE THE TRUTH.


WHERE'S THE ATTACK COMING FROM? ARE THEY ALL DOPPELGANGERS?
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS REAL?!
GRR

IF I CLOBBER EVERY ONE OF HIM, THEN SOONER OR LATER I'LL GET TO THE REAL ONE!!!

BAM

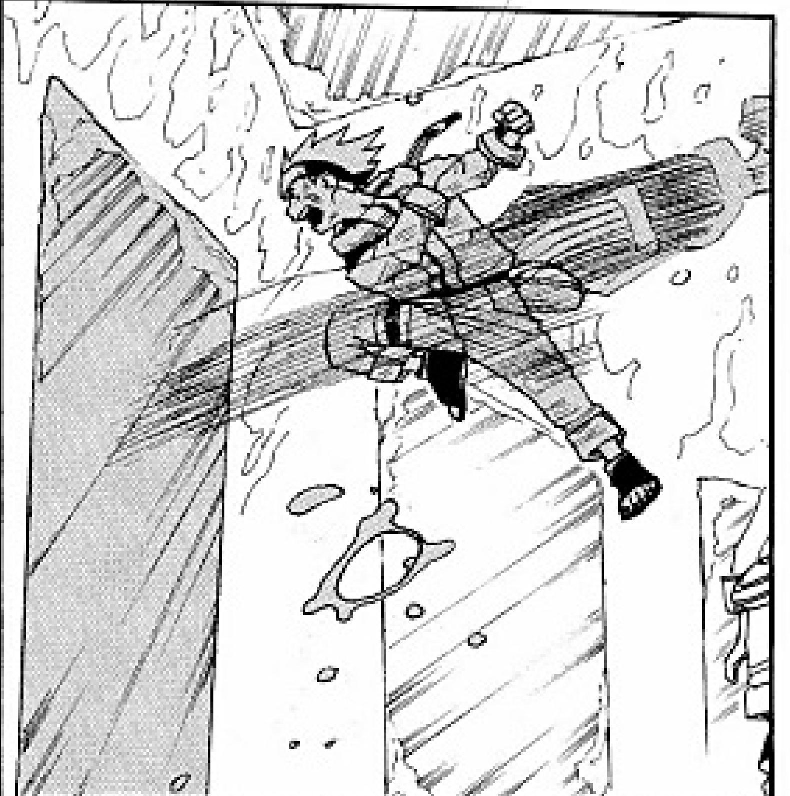
BAM BAM

BAM

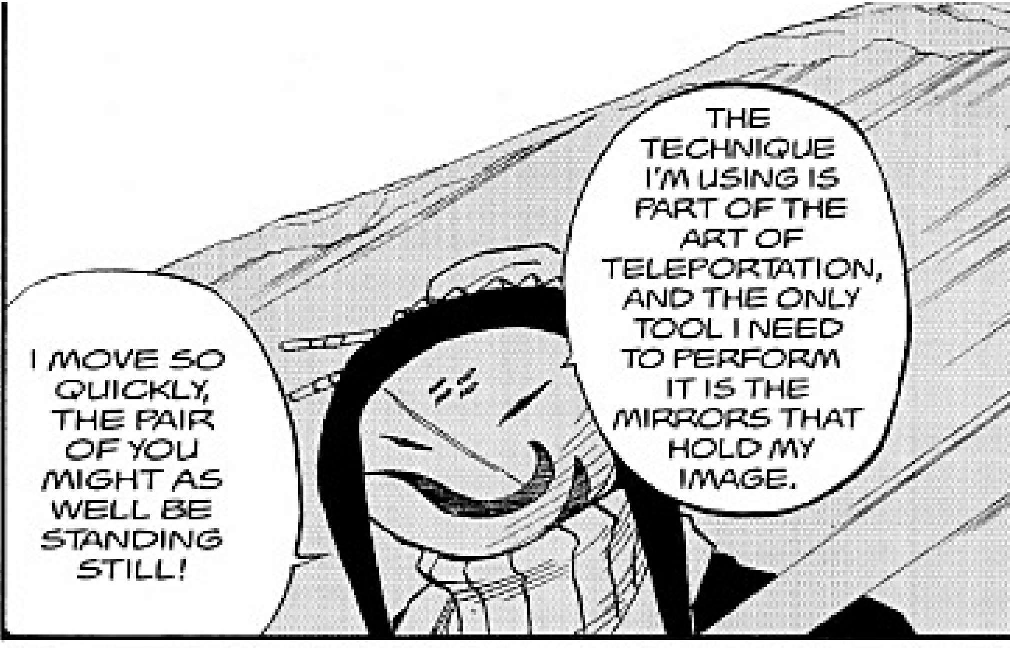
BAM

BAM

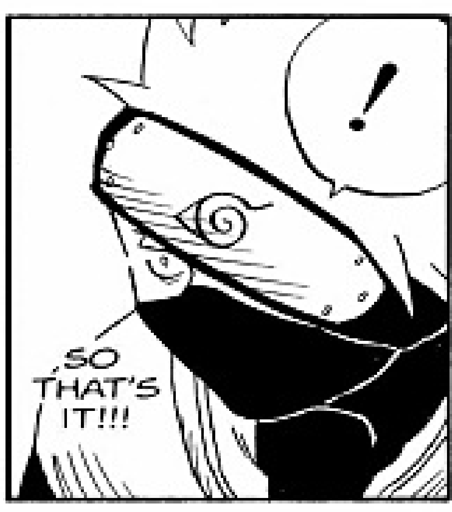


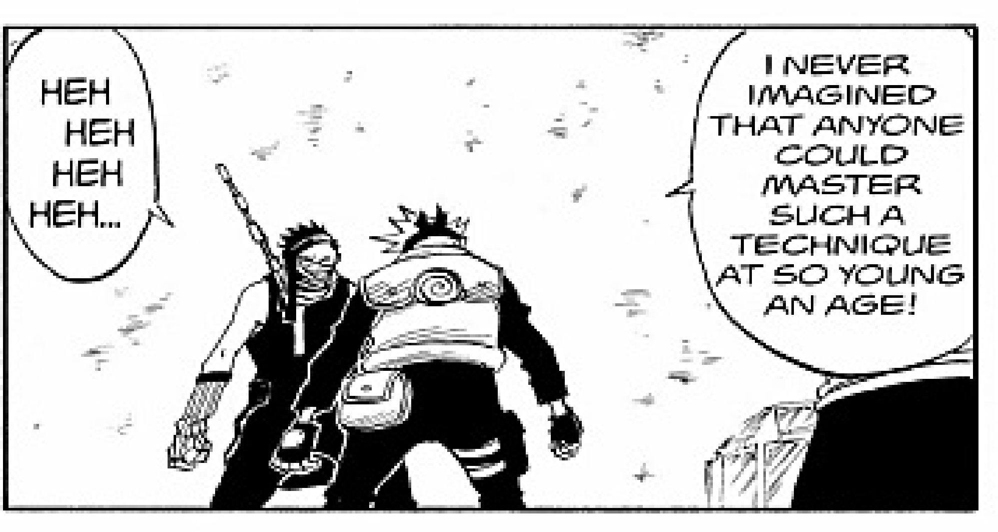


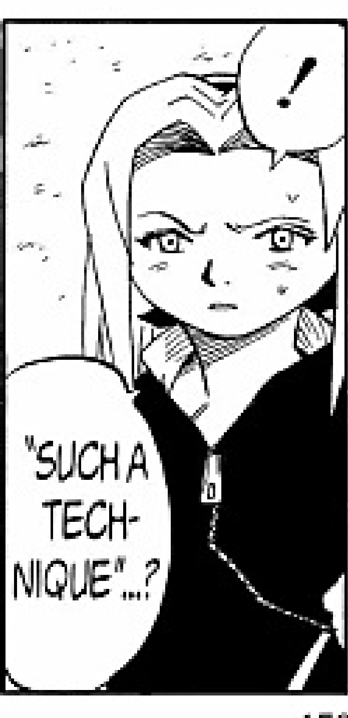

SHA
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
AUGH!!!!

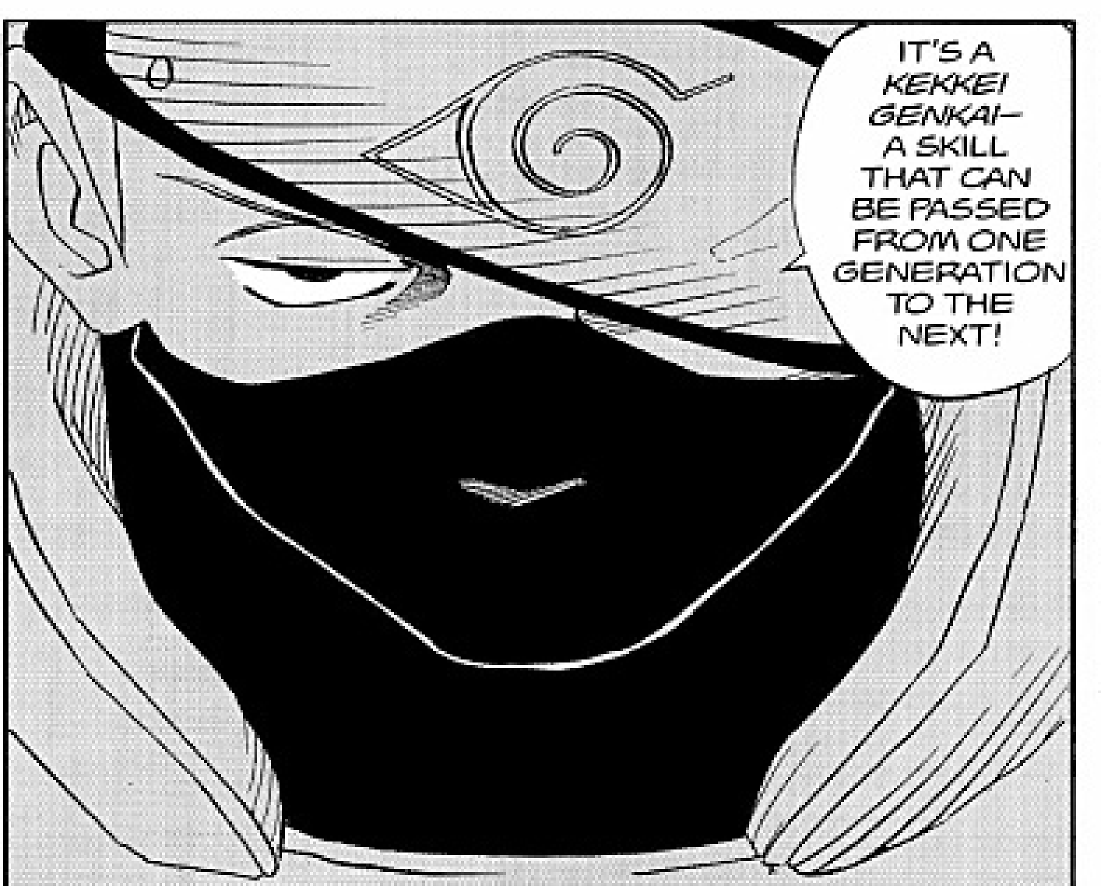

THE TECHNIQUE I'M USING IS PART OF THE ART OF TELEPORTATION, AND THE ONLY TOOL I NEED TO PERFORM IT IS THE MIRRORS THAT HOLD MY IMAGE.
I MOVE SO QUICKLY, THE PAIR OF YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE STANDING STILL!

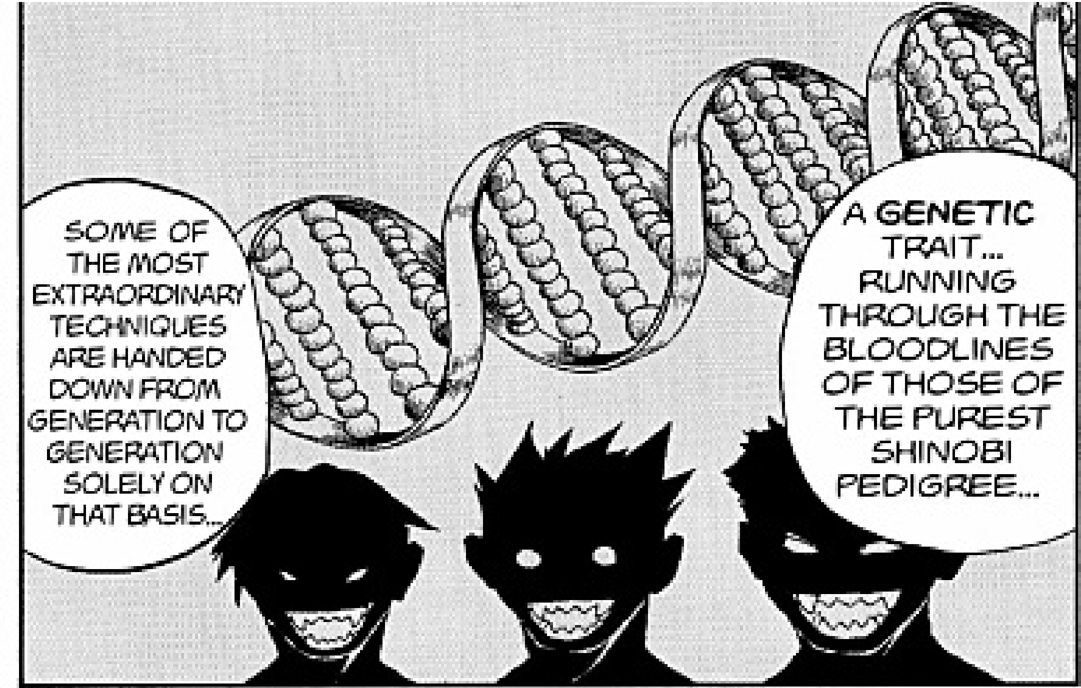

SKIIIID


!
SO THAT'S IT!!!

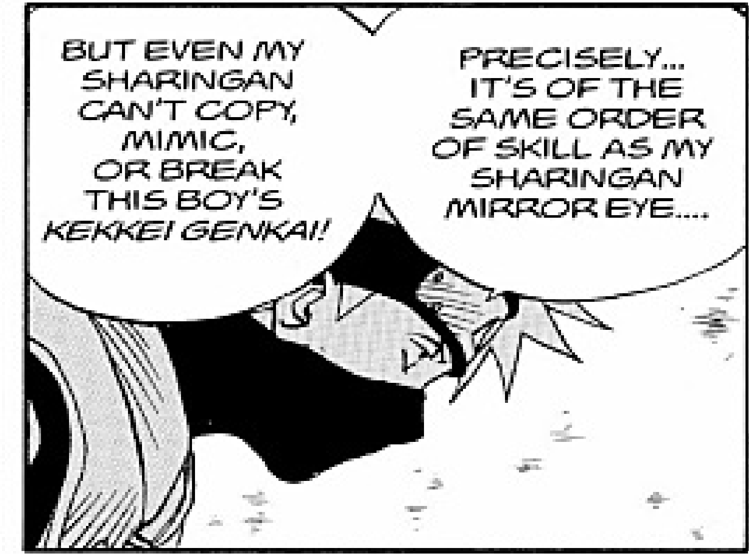

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT ANYONE COULD MASTER SUCH A TECHNIQUE AT SO YOUNG AN AGE!
HEH HEH HEH HEH...


!
"SUCH A TECH-NIQUE"...?


IT'S A KEKKEI GENKAI– A SKILL THAT CAN BE PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT!


A **GENETIC** TRAIT... RUNNING THROUGH THE BLOODLINES OF THOSE OF THE PUREST SHINOBI PEDIGREE...
SOME OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY TECHNIQUES ARE HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION SOLELY ON THAT BASIS...


YOU MEAN...


PRECISELY... IT'S OF THE SAME ORDER OF SKILL AS MY SHARINGAN MIRROR EYE....
BUT EVEN MY SHARINGAN CAN'T COPY, MIMIC, OR BREAK THIS BOY'S *KEKKEI GENKAI*!


...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH..

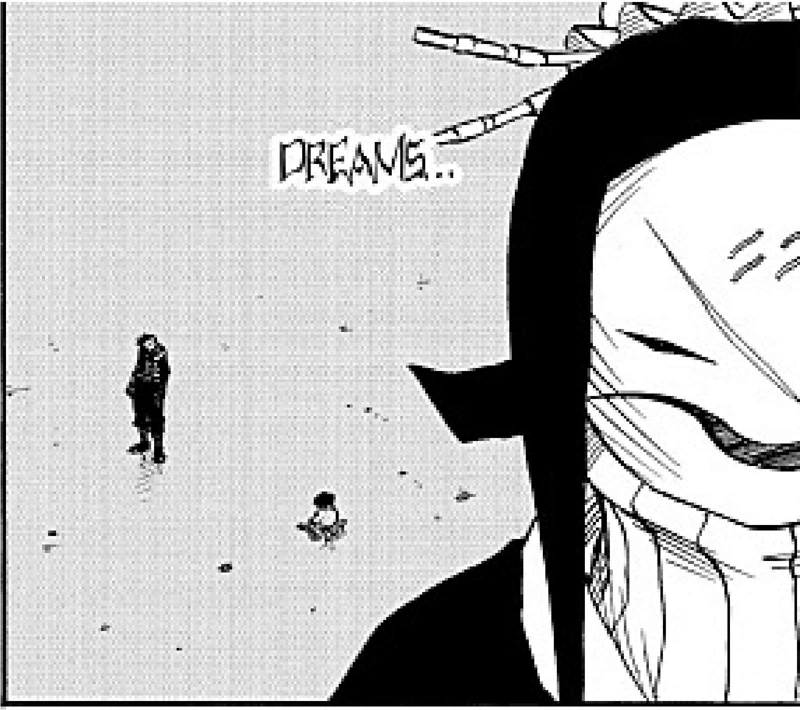

SO, IS THIS IT?
!


IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS!
I'VE GOT A DREAM TO FULFILL!

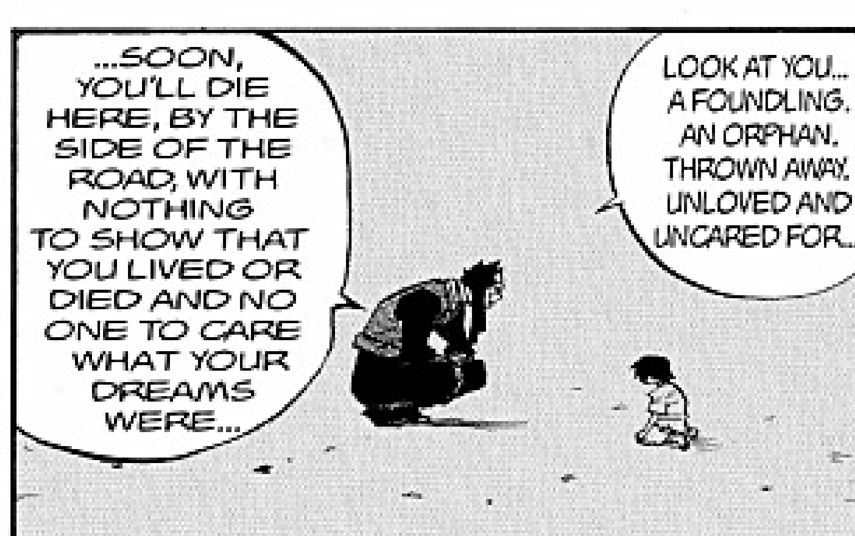

TO BECOME TOP DOG IN MY HOME TOWN!
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO TREAT ME LIKE DIRT WILL HAVE TO SAY "HE'S THE NUMBER ONE NINJA"!


PATHETIC!




DREAMS...


!

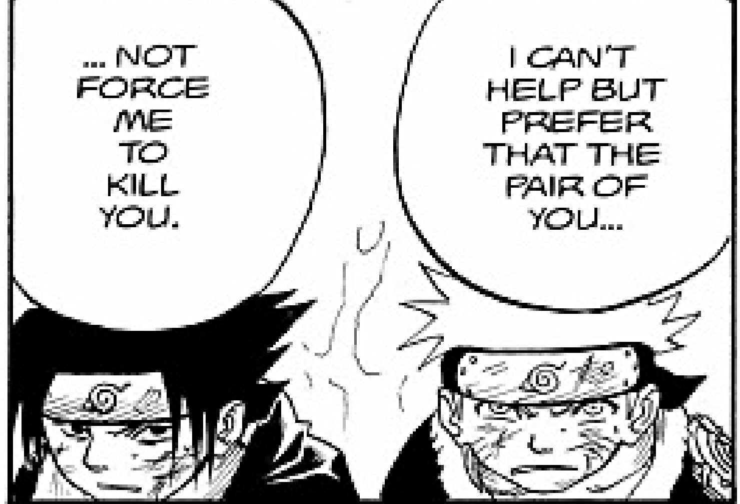

LOOK AT YOU... A FOUNDLING. AN ORPHAN. THROWN AWAY. UNLOVED AND UNCARED FOR...
...SOON, YOU'LL DIE HERE, BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, WITH NOTHING TO SHOW THAT YOU LIVED OR DIED AND NO ONE TO CARE WHAT YOUR DREAMS WERE...

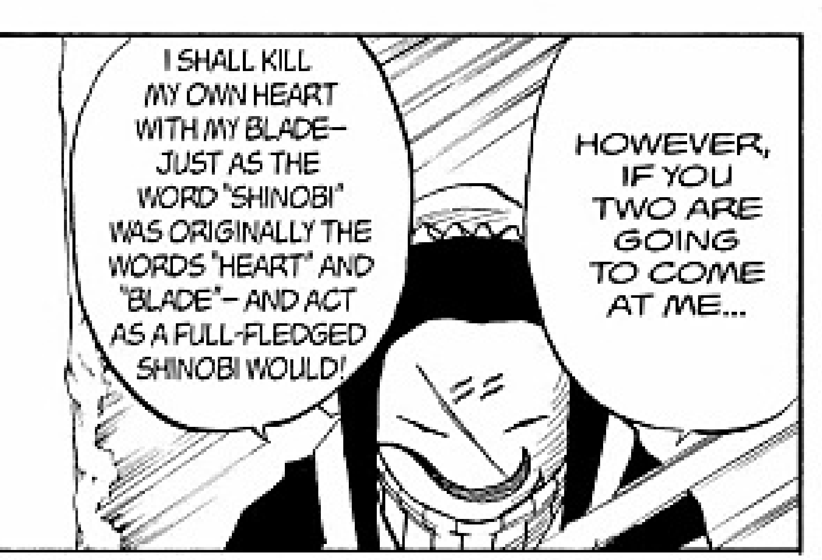


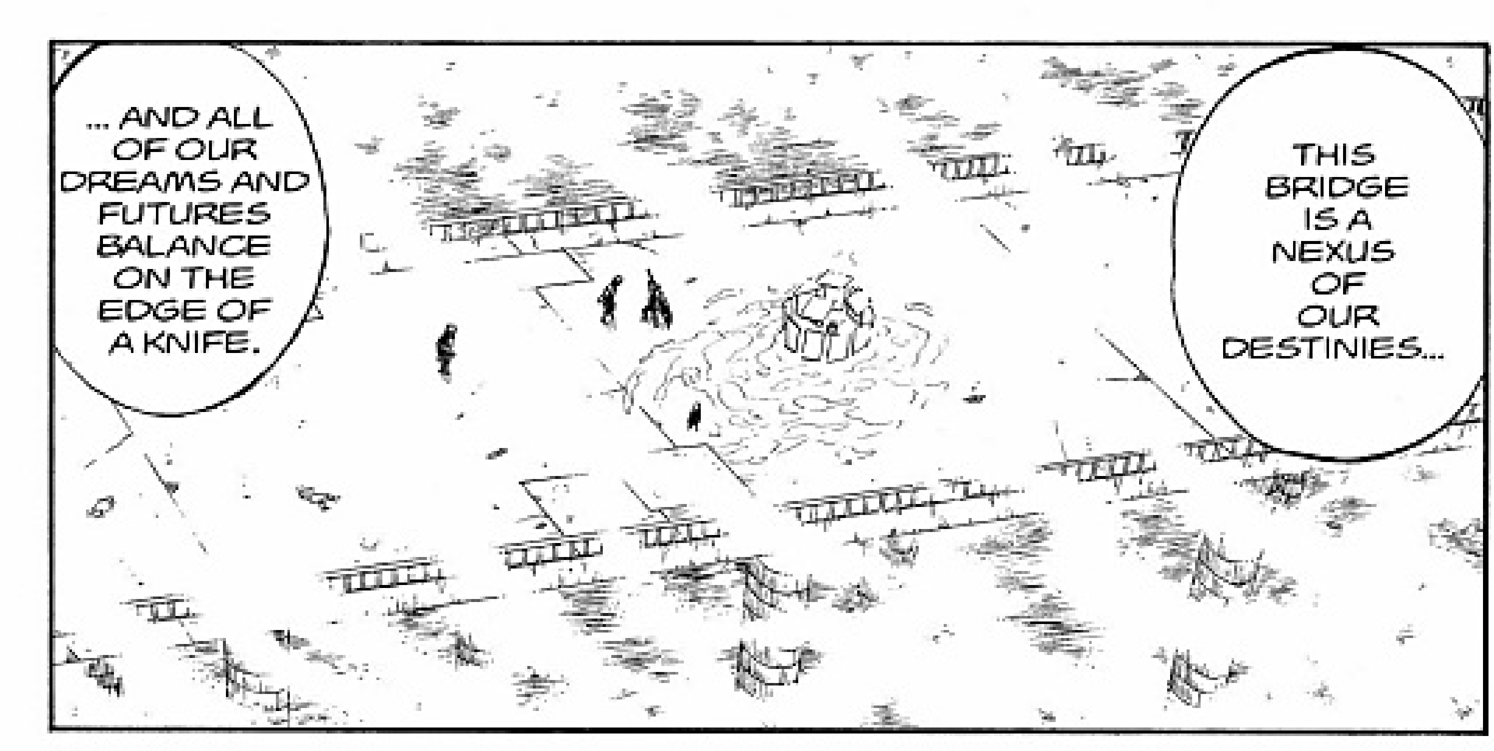
...I... CAN SEE MYSELF IN YOUR EYES. WE HAVE THE SAME EXPRESSION!


...


I... FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EMBRACE THE FULL SHINOBI PHILOSOPHY.


I CAN'T HELP BUT PREFER THAT THE PAIR OF YOU...
... NOT FORCE ME TO KILL YOU.


HOWEVER, IF YOU TWO ARE GOING TO COME AT ME...
I SHALL KILL MY OWN HEART WITH MY BLADE– JUST AS THE WORD "SHINOBI" WAS ORIGINALLY THE WORDS "HEART" AND "BLADE"– AND ACT AS A FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI WOULD!


THIS BRIDGE IS A NEXUS OF OUR DESTINIES...
... AND ALL OF OUR DREAMS AND FUTURES BALANCE ON THE EDGE OF A KNIFE.

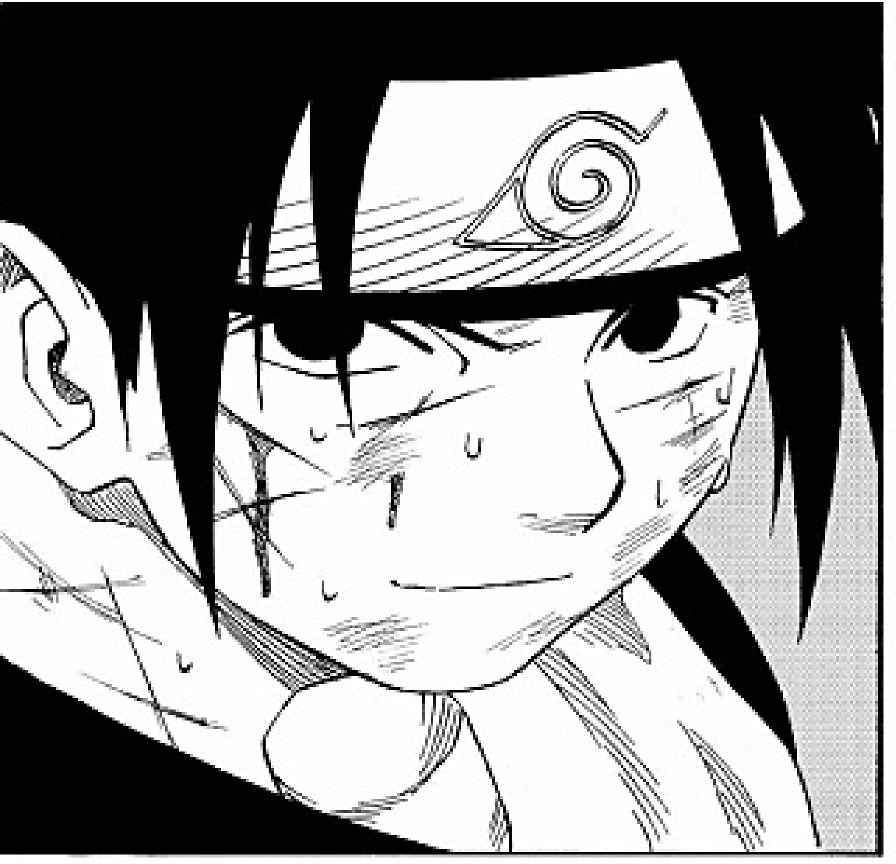

... AS YOU HAVE YOURS...

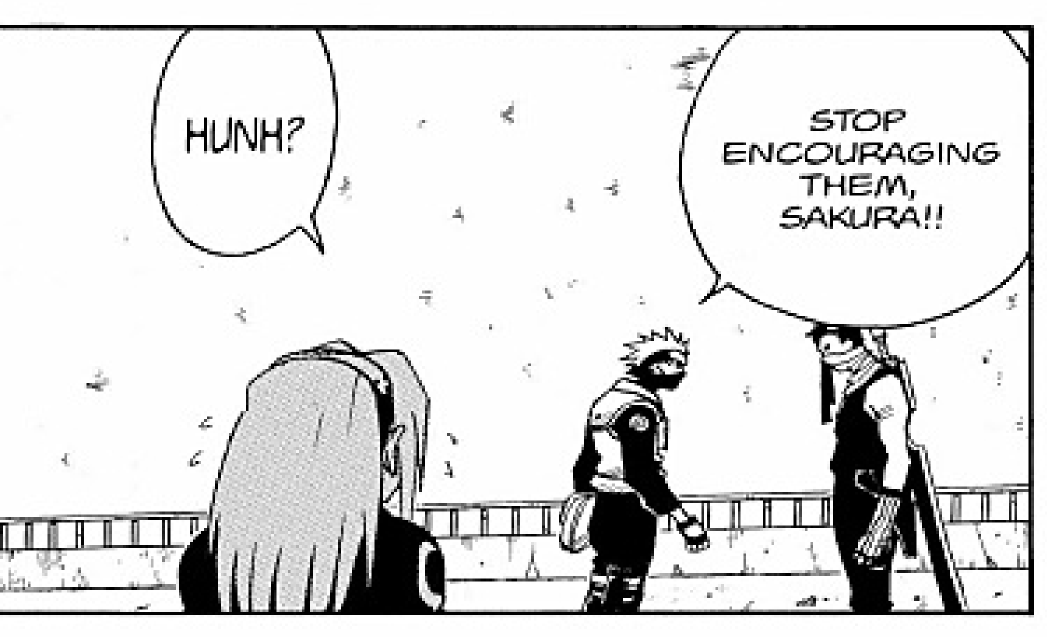

I HAVE MY OWN DREAMS....


... TO PROTECT THE ONE I CARE ABOUT MOST.... TO FIGHT, KILL, OR DIE TO FULFILL THAT PERSON'S DREAMS.
DOING SO IS MY OWN DREAM.

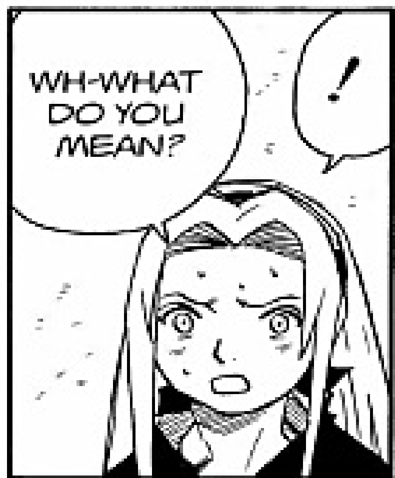

PLEASE TRY NOT TO RESENT ME, BUT I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...


TO THAT END, I WILL BECOME A TRUE SHINOBI...
...AND I SHALL KILL YOU BOTH.

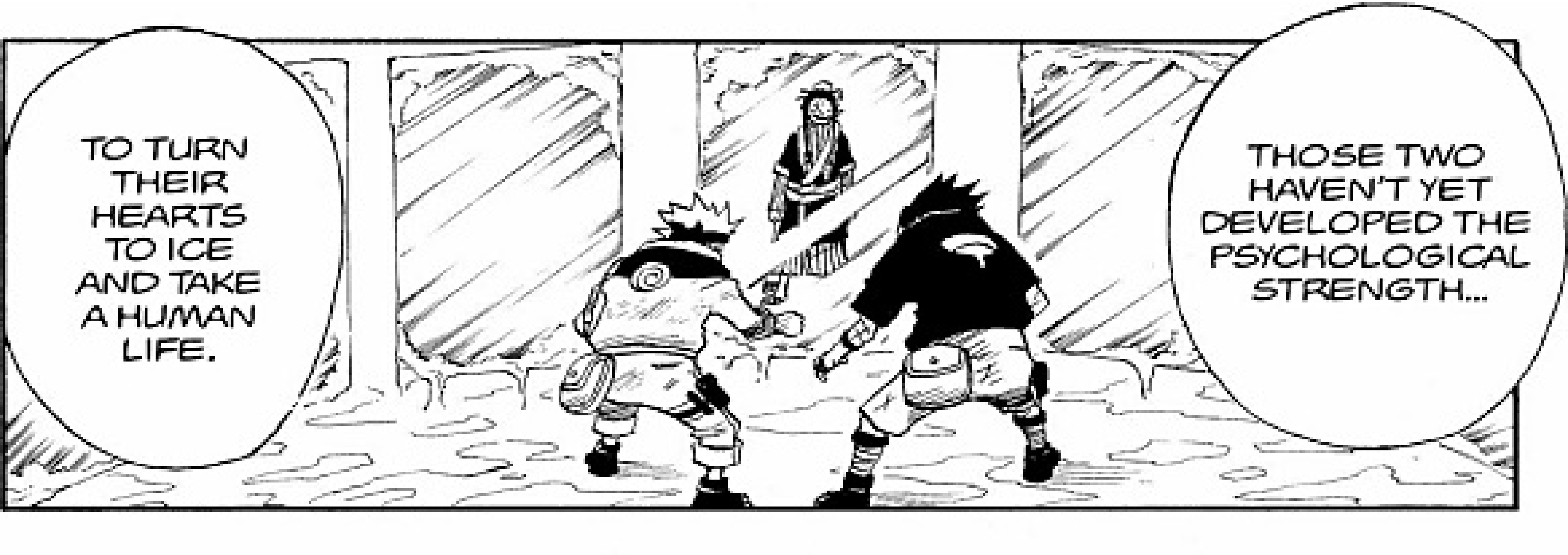


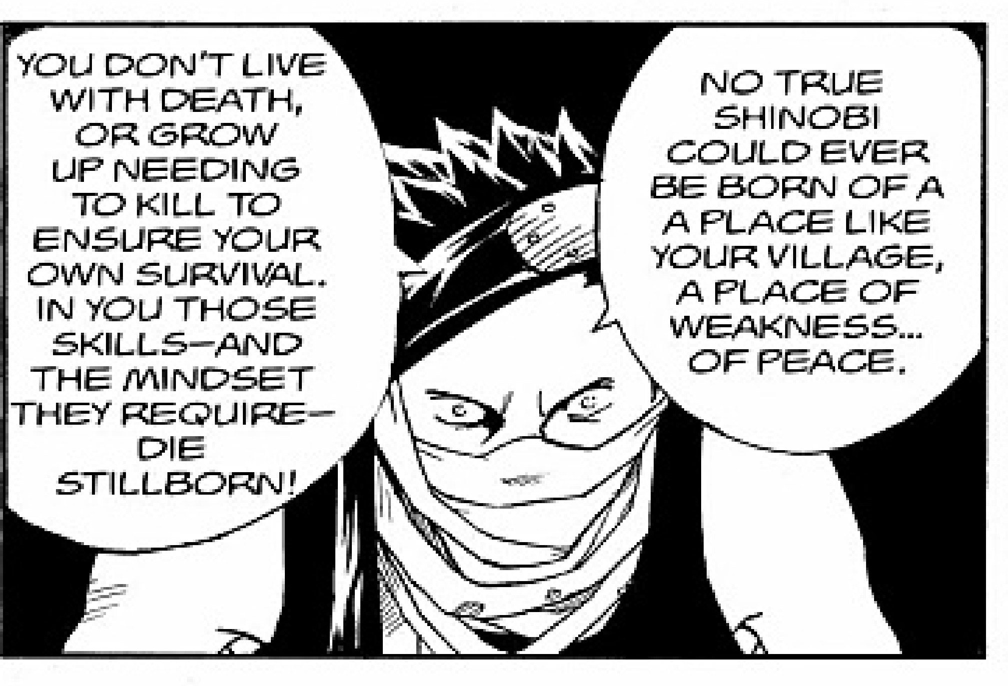

HUNH?
STOP ENCOURAGING THEM, SAKURA!!

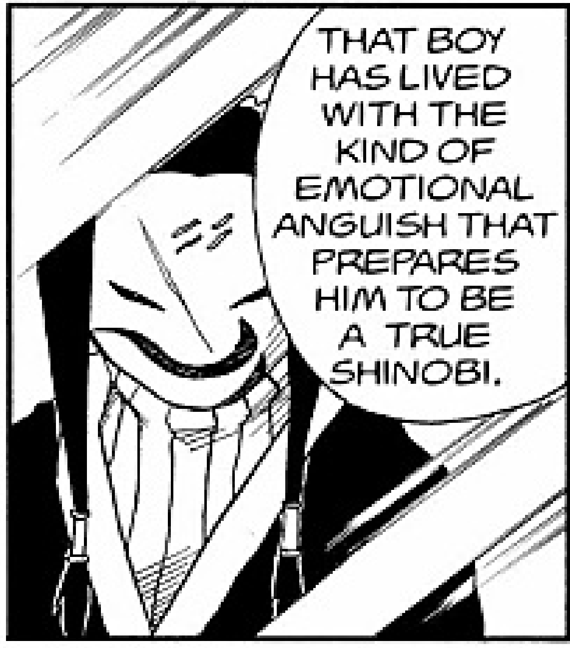
SASUKE! NARUTO! DON'T YOU DARE LOSE TO A PERSON LIKE HIM!!!!

HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH...

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
!

EVEN IF WE KNEW OF A WAY TO COUNTER HIS TECHNIQUE, YOUR TEAMMATES STILL WOULDN'T BE UP TO THE TASK OF DEFEATING THAT BOY.


THOSE TWO HAVEN'T YET DEVELOPED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRENGTH...
TO TURN THEIR HEARTS TO ICE AND TAKE A HUMAN LIFE.


NO TRUE SHINOBI COULD EVER BE BORN OF A A PLACE LIKE YOUR VILLAGE, A PLACE OF WEAKNESS... OF PEACE.
YOU DON'T LIVE WITH DEATH, OR GROW UP NEEDING TO KILL TO ENSURE YOUR OWN SURVIVAL. IN YOU THOSE SKILLS—AND THE MINDSET THEY REQUIRE—DIE STILLBORN!


THAT BOY HAS LIVED WITH THE KIND OF EMOTIONAL ANGUISH THAT PREPARES HIM TO BE A TRUE SHINOBI.


SHA


...


MASTER KAKASHI... WHAT CAN WE DO?

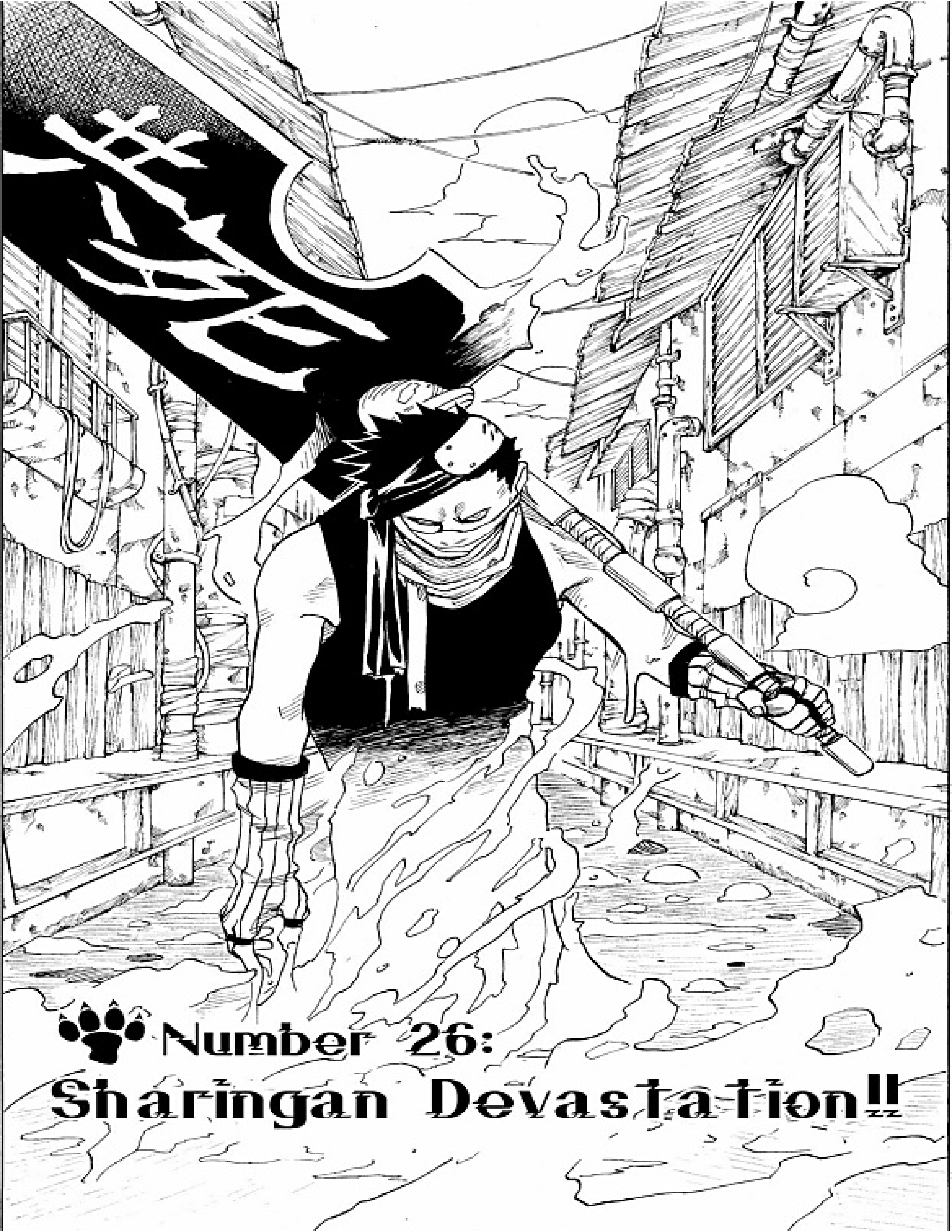
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME...

... IF I PUT AN END TO THIS...!

HEH HEH... GOING TO USE THE SHARINGAN...?

WHAT A VULGAR MANEUVER. SO OBVIOUS, SO LACKING IN FINESSE!



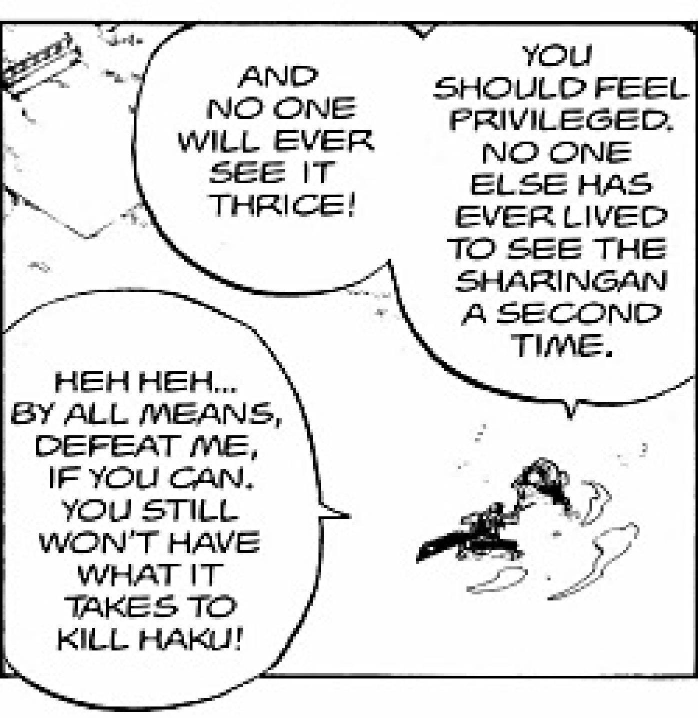

Number 26:
Sharingan Devastation!!



SHA
!
TAK
THE SHARINGAN EYE!!!


SHING
SHUKK
PLIT
PLIT
PLIT

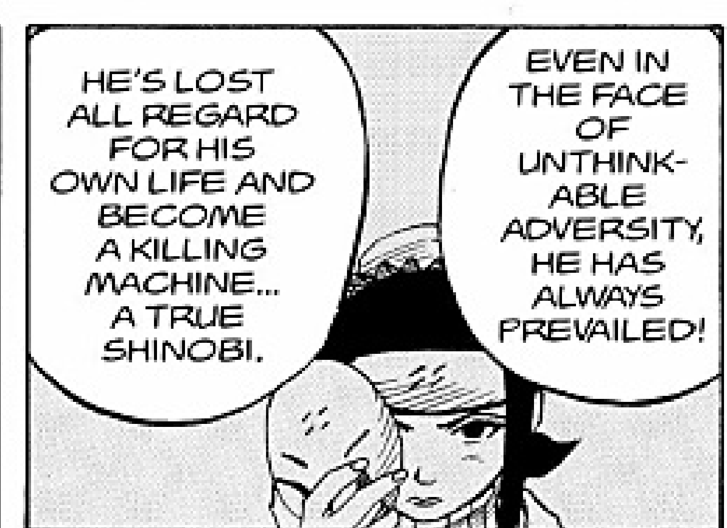
YOU CAN SNEER ALL YOU WANT ABOUT MY "LACK OF FINESSE," ZABUZA... IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE SHARINGAN. AND OF ME.



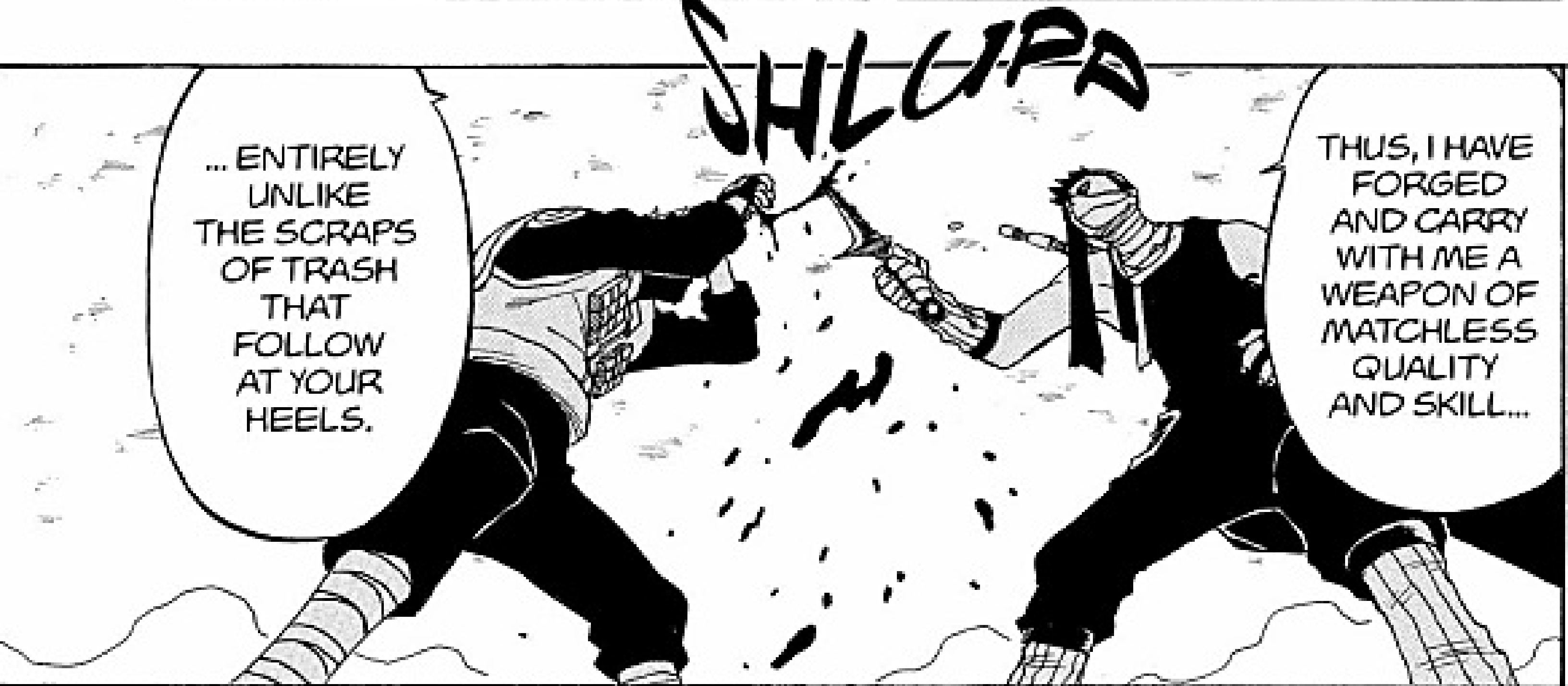



THAT MASKED BOY IS SO POWERFUL, EVEN MASTER KAKASHI CAN'T WIN...?!
MASTER...!


SINCE HE WAS A TODDLER...
... I'VE BEATEN HIS FIGHTING SKILLS INTO HIM!


EVEN IN THE FACE OF UNTHINK-ABLE ADVERSITY, HE HAS ALWAYS PREVAILED!
HE'S LOST ALL REGARD FOR HIS OWN LIFE AND BECOME A KILLING MACHINE... A TRUE SHINOBI.


HIS SKILLS SURPASS EVEN MY OWN.
AND HE BEARS WITHIN HIM THE FORMIDABLE LEGACY OF AN INHERITED KEKKEI GENKAI!


THUS, I HAVE FORGED AND CARRY WITH ME A WEAPON OF MATCHLESS QUALITY AND SKILL...
SHLUPP
... ENTIRELY UNLIKE THE SCRAPS OF TRASH THAT FOLLOW AT YOUR HEELS.

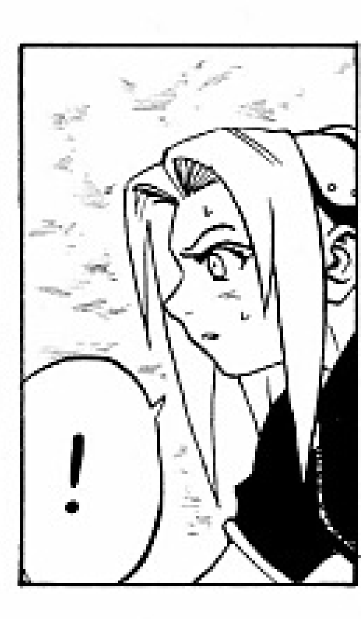

IS THERE ANYTHING DULLER THAN LISTENING TO SOMEONE ELSE BRAG?
IT'S SHOW TIME!









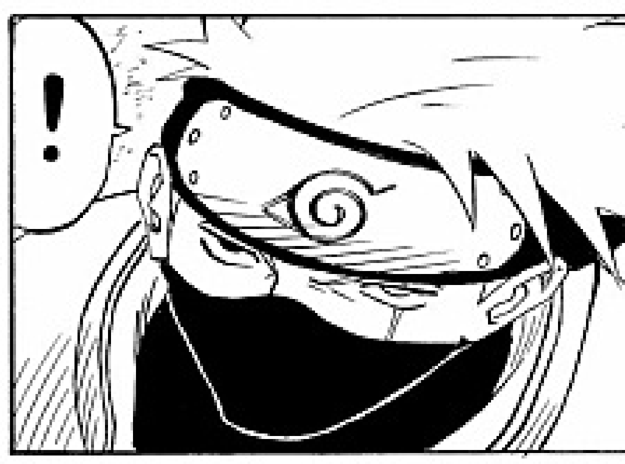


SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT OF, "JUST SO YOU KNOW"...

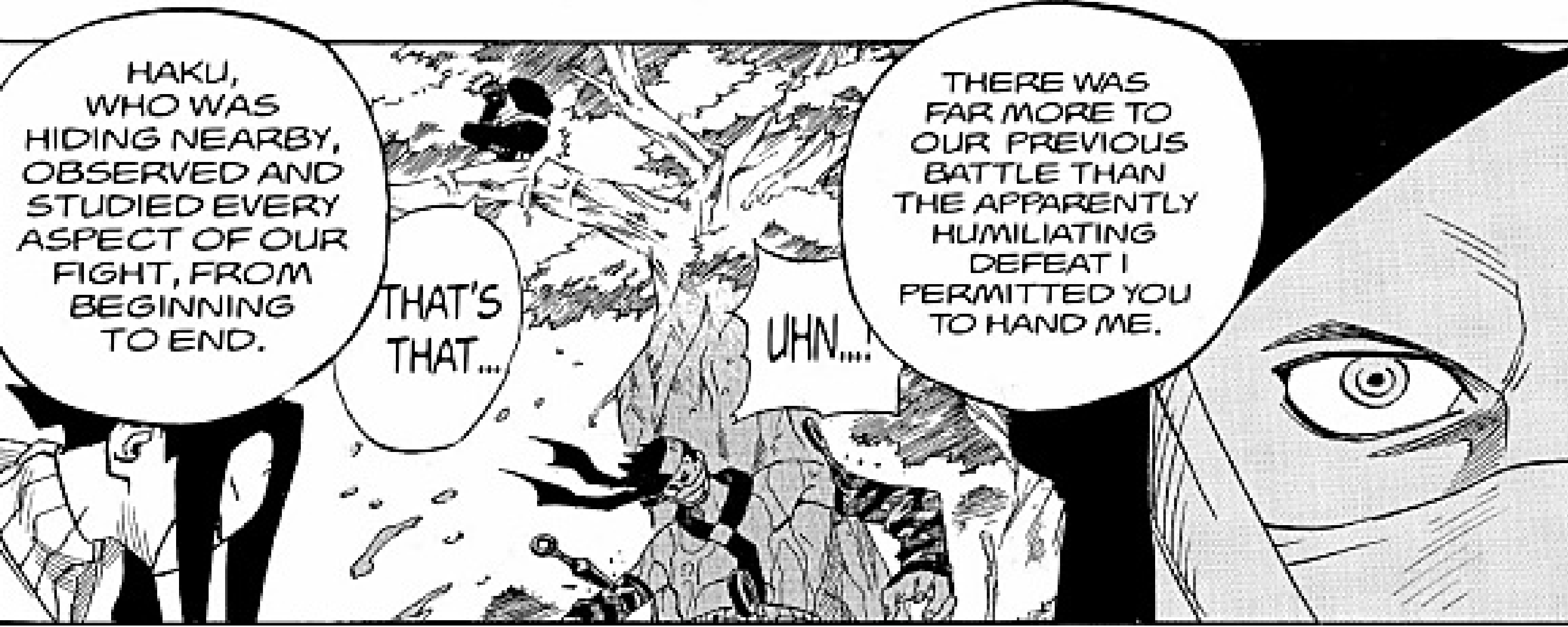
..."THE SAME SPELL WON'T WORK ON ME TWICE."

HEH...









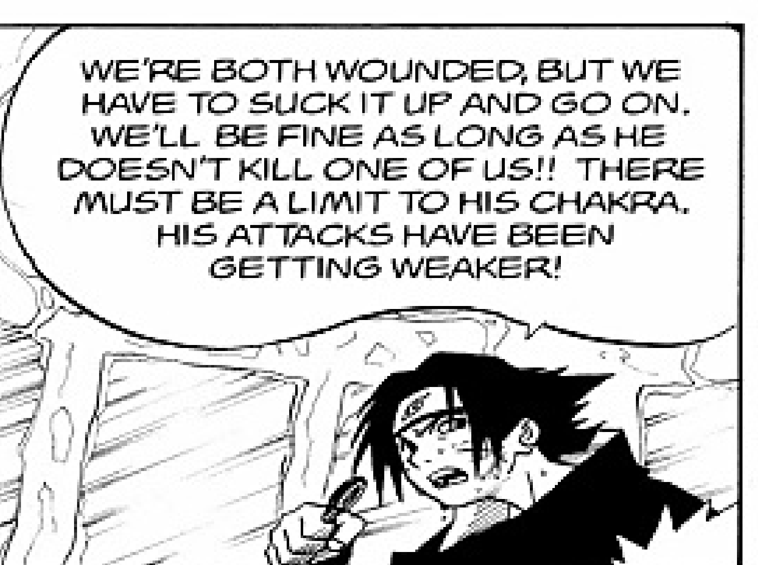
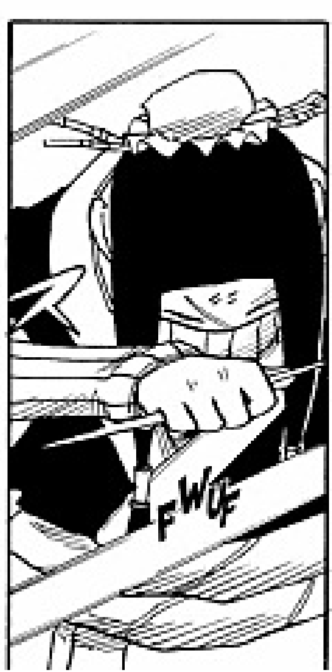
* "The Art of Hiding in the Mist"









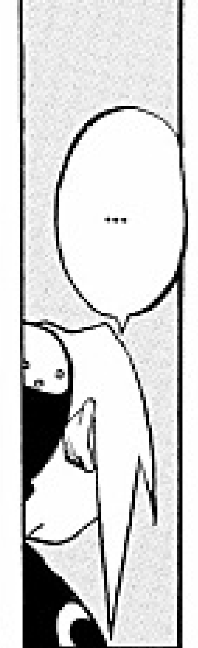
AW, MAN...
SASUKE! WE'VE GOTTA STOP REACTING AND TAKE BACK THE INITIATIVE!!
SHUT UP AND GET ON YOUR FEET! I CAN'T FIGHT HIM AND WATCH OUT FOR YOU, TOO!

WE'RE BOTH WOUNDED, BUT WE HAVE TO SUCK IT UP AND GO ON. WE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T KILL ONE OF US!! THERE MUST BE A LIMIT TO HIS CHAKRA. HIS ATTACKS HAVE BEEN GETTING WEAKER!

FWUF

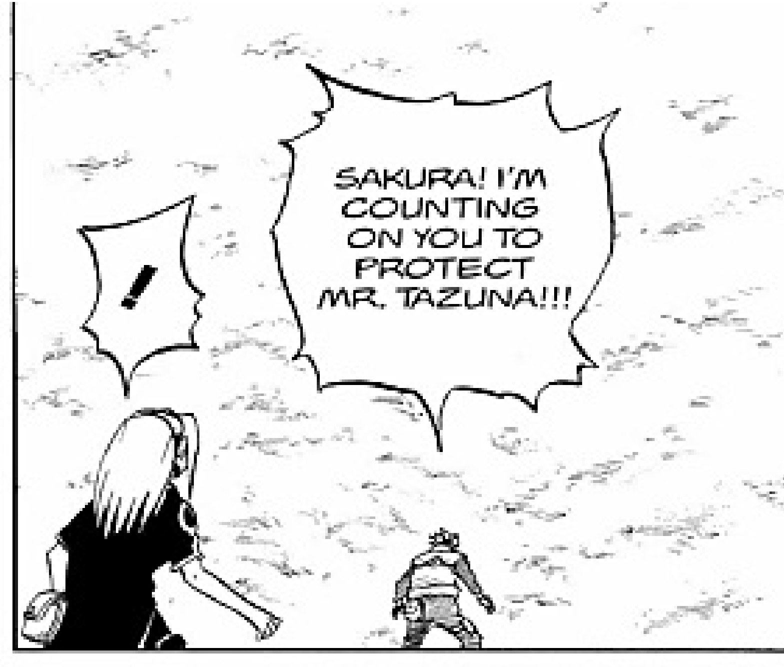
HE'S COMING!!!
CHING

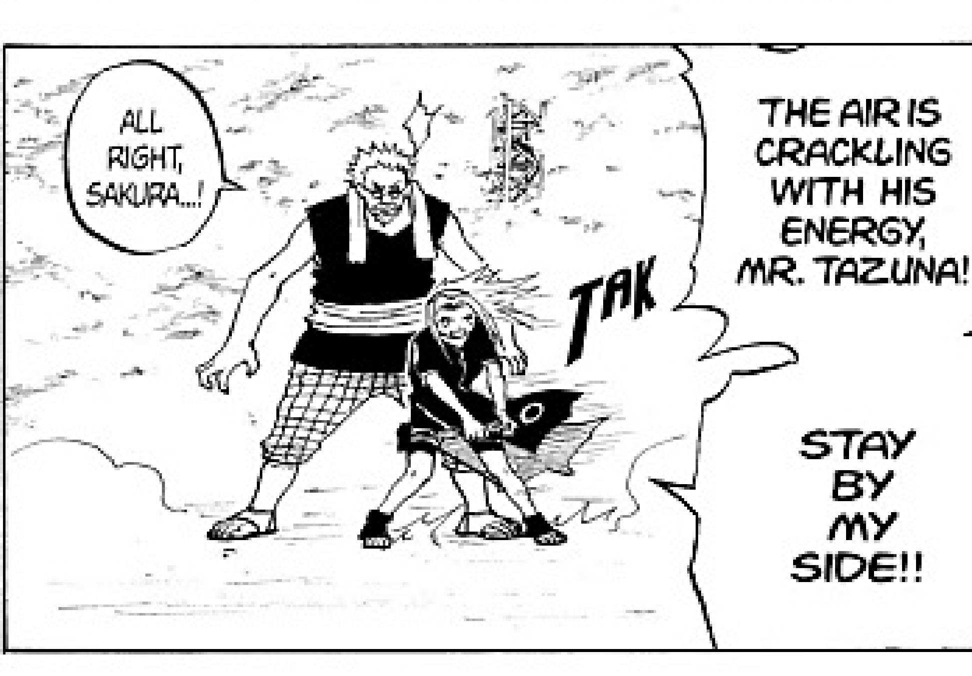
TAK

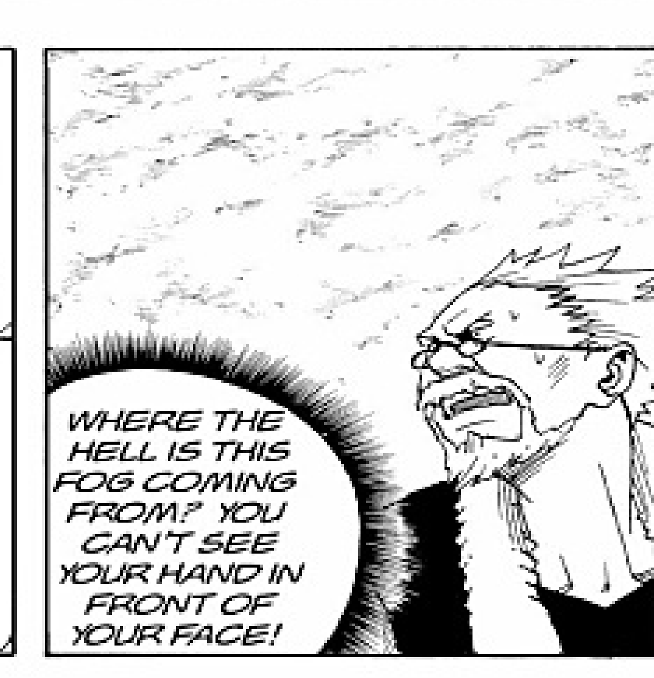
SHUK

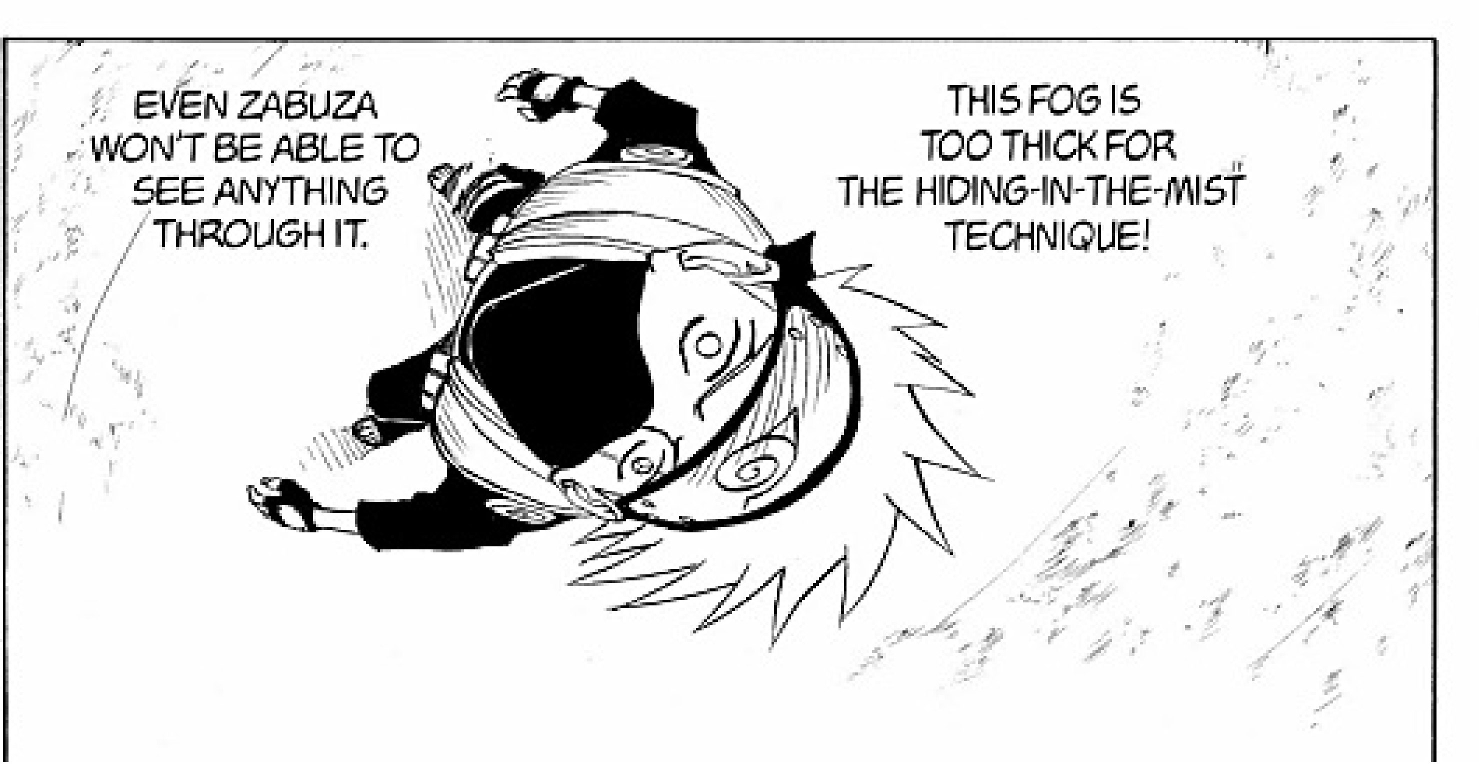

...HE'S RIGHT... I'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH IN SASUKE...
...AND CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I HAVE TO DO.


...


SAKURA! I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO PROTECT MR. TAZUNA!!!
!


THE AIR IS CRACKLING WITH HIS ENERGY, MR. TAZUNA!
STAY BY MY SIDE!!
TAK
ALL RIGHT, SAKURA...!


WHERE THE HELL IS THIS FOG COMING FROM? YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR HAND IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE!


THIS FOG IS TOO THICK FOR THE HIDING-IN-THE-MIST TECHNIQUE!
EVEN ZABUZA WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING THROUGH IT.

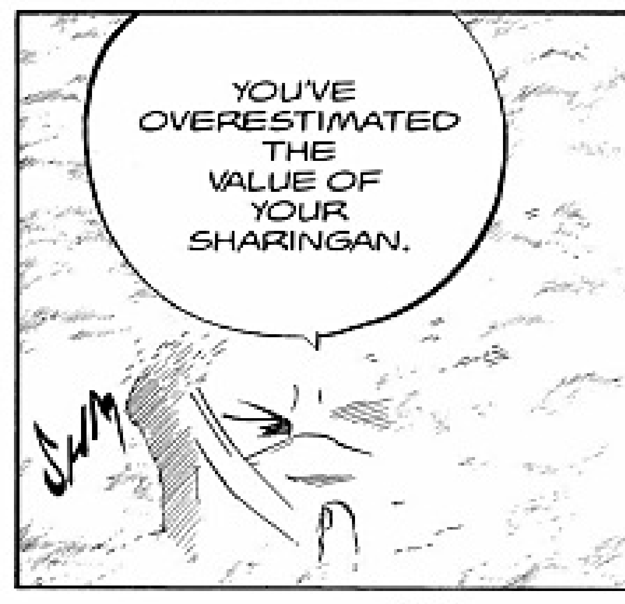

VIIIN
VIIIN
!
CHING
GASP!
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING
SHH
YOU REPELLED THOSE NICELY... NO LESS THAN I'D EXPECT OF KAKASHI OF THE SHARINGAN EYE.
!


HIS EYES ARE CLOSED!!

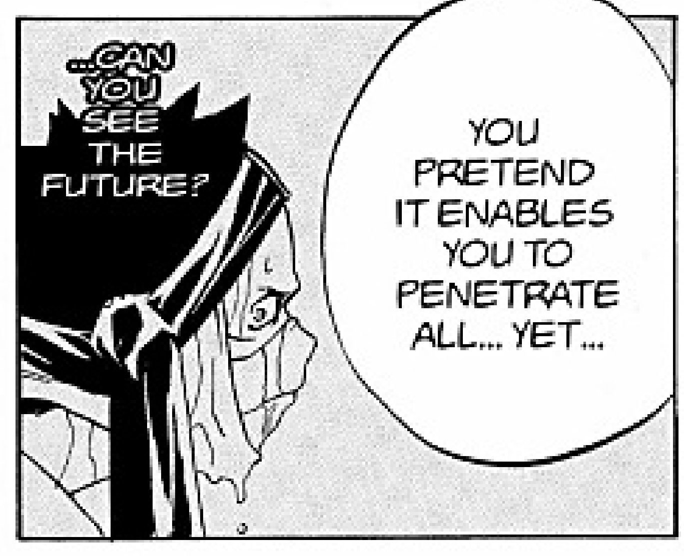

HOWEVER... THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME... IT WILL STILL BE THE END.


SHHH
HEH HEH HEH...

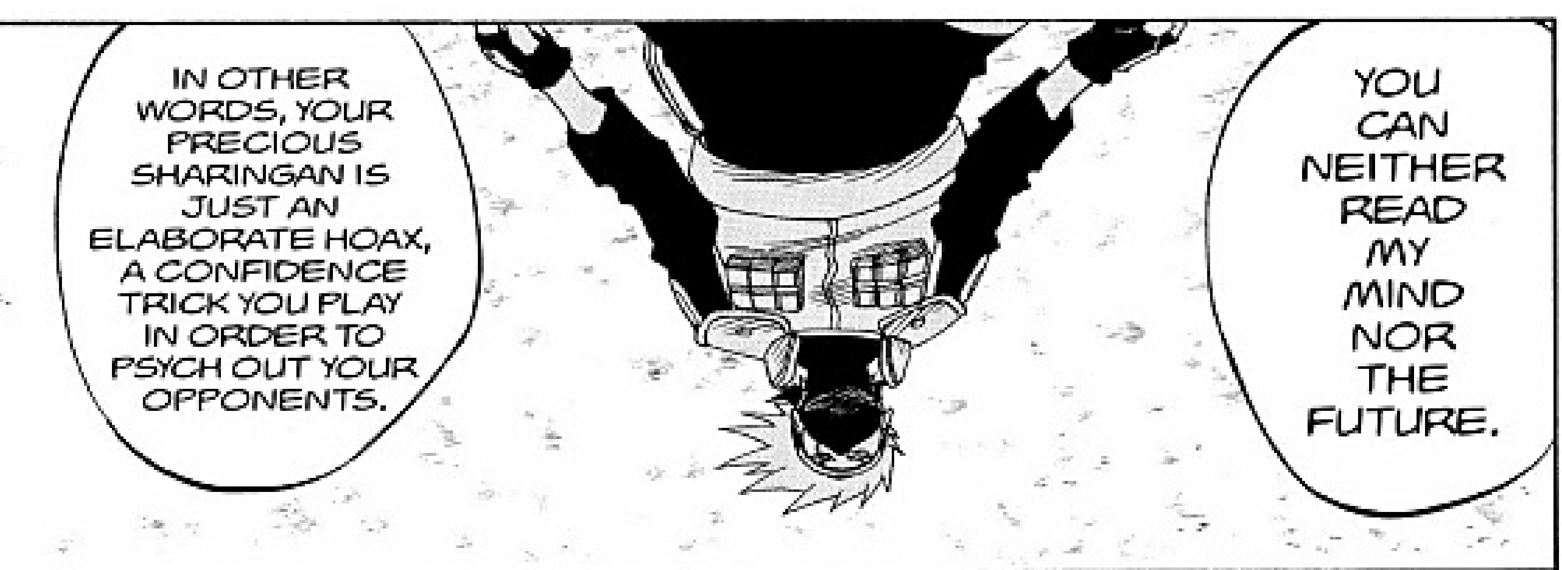

WHAT...?

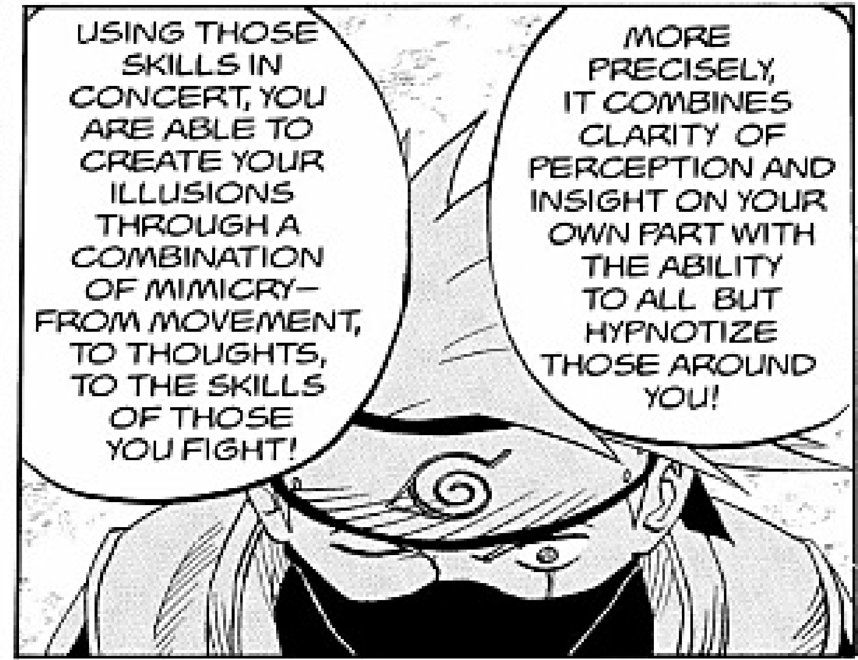

YOU'VE OVERESTIMATED THE VALUE OF YOUR SHARINGAN.
SHM

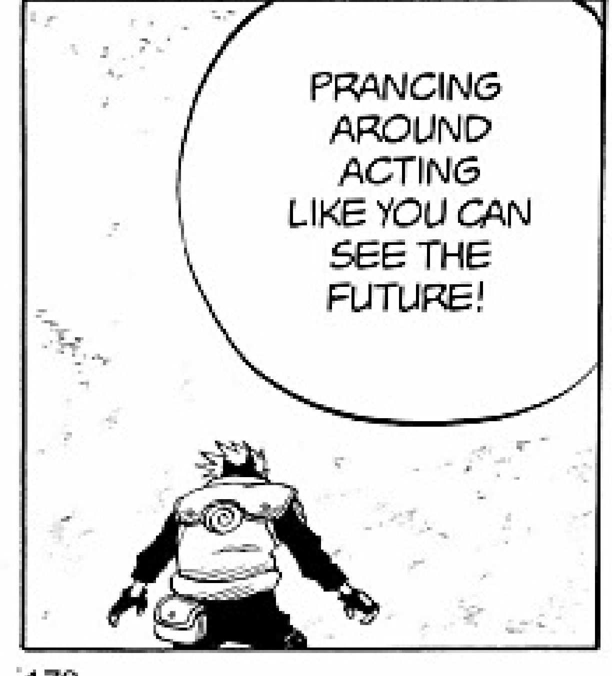

READ THIS WAY


YOU PRETEND IT ENABLES YOU TO PENETRATE ALL... YET...
...CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE?


I FORESEE... YOUR DEATH.
BUT YOU'VE TURNED OUT TO BE A FALSE PROPHET AFTER ALL, KAKASHI...


YOU CAN NEITHER READ MY MIND NOR THE FUTURE.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR PRECIOUS SHARINGAN IS JUST AN ELABORATE HOAX, A CONFIDENCE TRICK YOU PLAY IN ORDER TO PSYCH OUT YOUR OPPONENTS.


MORE PRECISELY, IT COMBINES CLARITY OF PERCEPTION AND INSIGHT ON YOUR OWN PART WITH THE ABILITY TO ALL BUT HYPNOTIZE THOSE AROUND YOU!
USING THOSE SKILLS IN CONCERT, YOU ARE ABLE TO CREATE YOUR ILLUSIONS THROUGH A COMBINATION OF MIMICRY— FROM MOVEMENT, TO THOUGHTS, TO THE SKILLS OF THOSE YOU FIGHT!


PRANCING AROUND ACTING LIKE YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE!



!!!
FWUP
COPYING FORM...
YOU ANALYZE MY SUPERFICIAL MOVEMENTS, COPY THEM, AND USE THE RAPIDITY OF THE TURNAROUND TO INDUCE FEAR AND INSECURITY.
FEH... YOU'RE A PALE IMITATION.
I'M THE GENUINE ARTICLE. NO MERE COPYCAT STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST ME.
COPYING THOUGHT...
ONCE YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEART AND MIND, YOU CALCULATE JUST WHAT TO SAY TO BEND MY MIND TO YOUR WILL, AND THEN...
YOU CALCULATE WHEN MY INSECURITIES HAVE REACHED A FEVER PITCH, AND THEN YOU LAY YOUR TRAP.
YOU USE VISUAL HYPNOSIS TO TRICK ME INTO SIGNALLING WHAT TECHNIQUE I'LL USE AND HOW I'LL BE USING IT.
... AND THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MIMIC IT!
COPYING NINJUTSU...



!
KNOWING THAT, IT WAS SIMPLE TO CHOOSE A COUNTER-MEASURE.
FIRST, I CONCEAL MYSELF WITHIN THIS THICK MIST AND NEUTRALIZE YOUR VISUAL ACUITY.
UHN!
POW
AAGH..! IT'S HARD TO BLOCK WHAT I CAN'T SEE!!!
AH--!
HEH HEH.. WITH MY OWN EYES CLOSED, I ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR HYPNOTIZING ME WHILE WE'RE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.
SKF SKF SKF



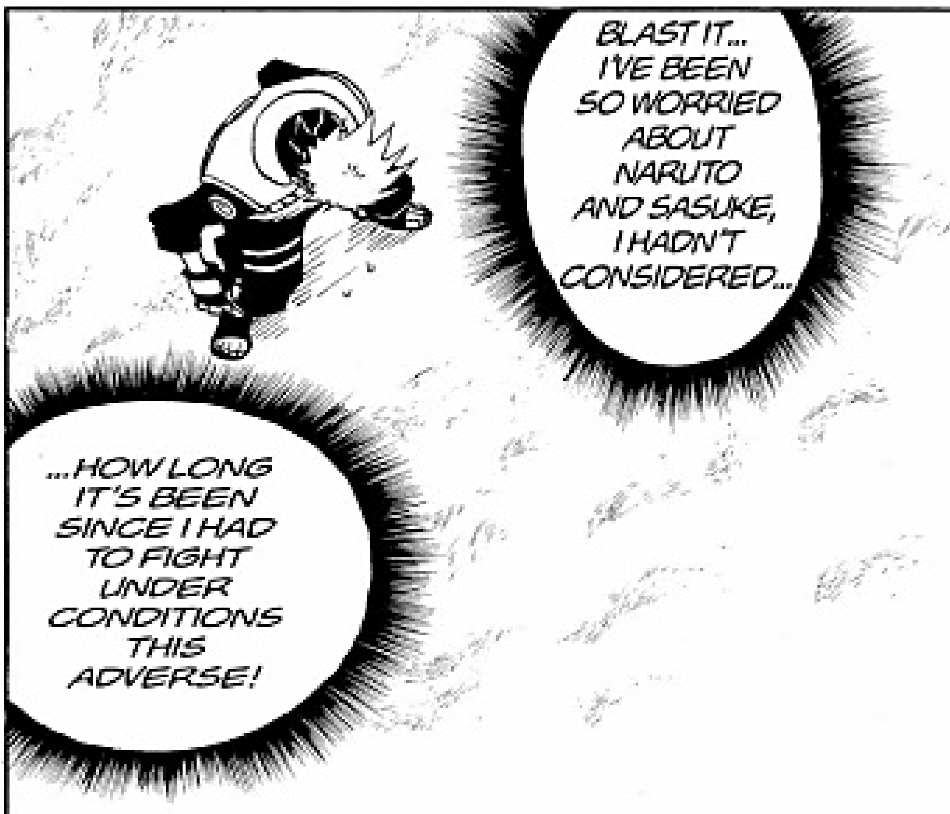


I AM TRAINED IN SILENT KILLING. MY GENIUS LIES IN THE ABILITY TO HUNT BY SOUND ALONE!



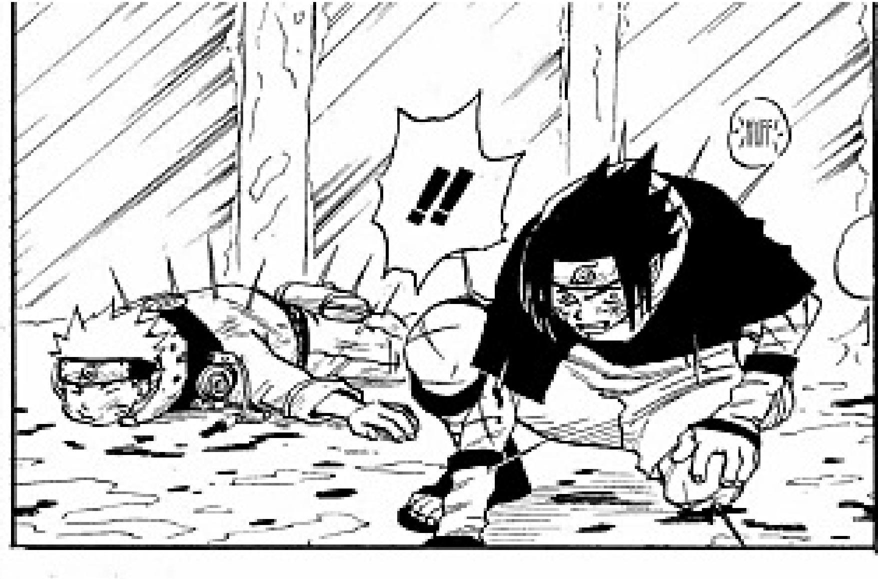







READ THIS WAY
!
NO!!
SHM
POK
TAK
HUNH?!
!!


BAM
!
!!
TOO LATE!!
AIEEEEE!!


!!

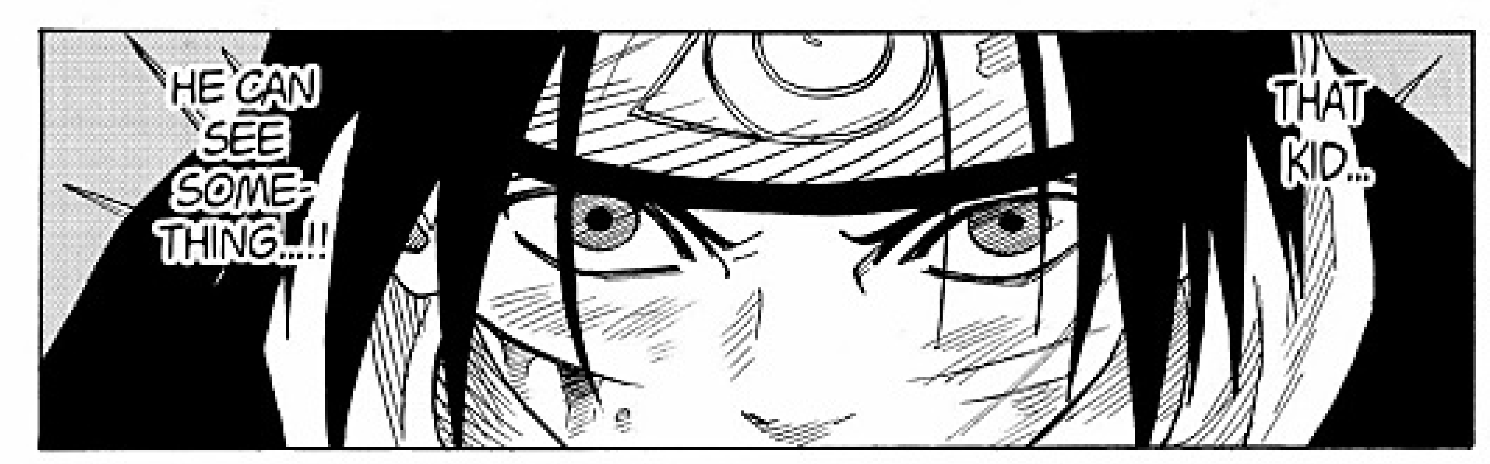

THAT'S SAKURA'S VOICE!! WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
WHAT THE HELL DOES KAKASHI THINK HE'S DOING?!!




IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'LL ALL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!


MY EYES ARE BEGINNING TO ADJUST TO THE ENVIRONMENT...


I'VE BEEN TARGETING THE POINTS THAT WOULD RESULT IN MORTAL INJURIES BUT... HE'S EVADED EVERY ATTEMPT!
AND WHILE HE'S DIVIDING HIS OWN FOCUS BETWEEN FIGHTING ME AND WATCHING OUT FOR HIS FRIEND... HE'S GRADUALLY GAINING SPEED, BEGINNING TO CATCH UP TO MY OWN MOVES...


THAT KID...
HE CAN SEE SOME-THING...!!

REAL NARUTO



Number 27: Awakenings

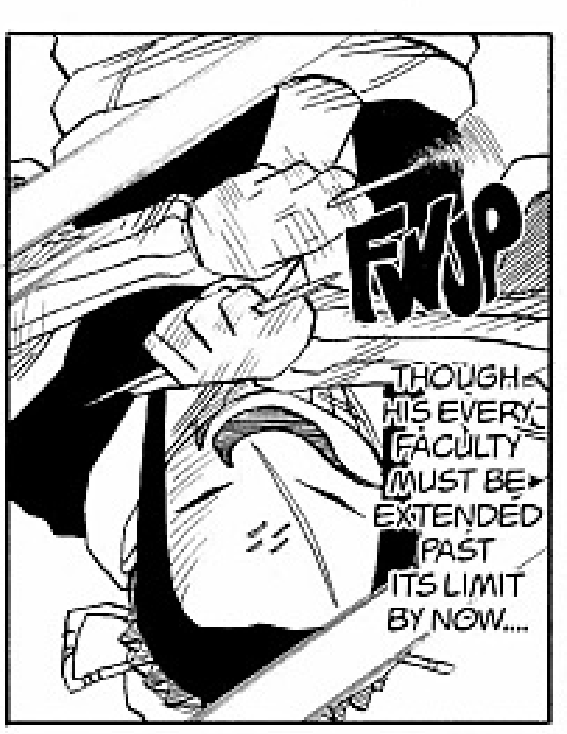





YOU...
...MOVE WELL...


BUT MY NEXT ASSAULT WILL TAKE YOU DOWN!


SHF
HE SHOWS AMAZING STAMINA, REFLEXES, TRAINING, SKILL, AND JUDGEMENT.....


FWSP
THOUGH HIS EVERY FACULTY MUST BE EXTENDED PAST ITS LIMIT BY NOW....


HERE HE COMES!!

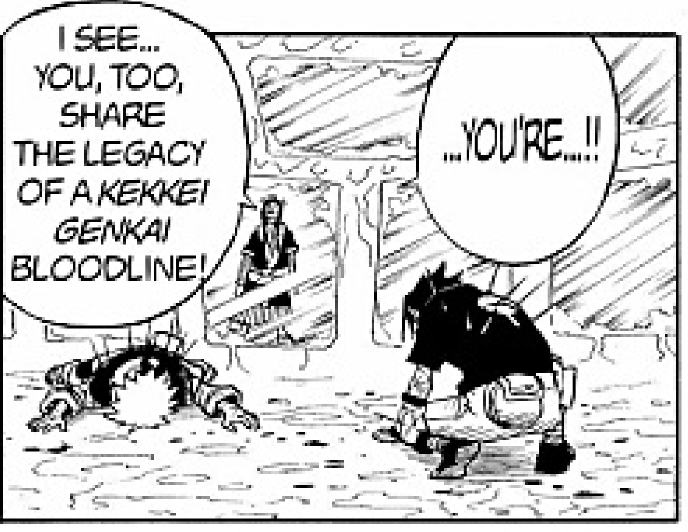

STAY FROSTY... FOCUS...

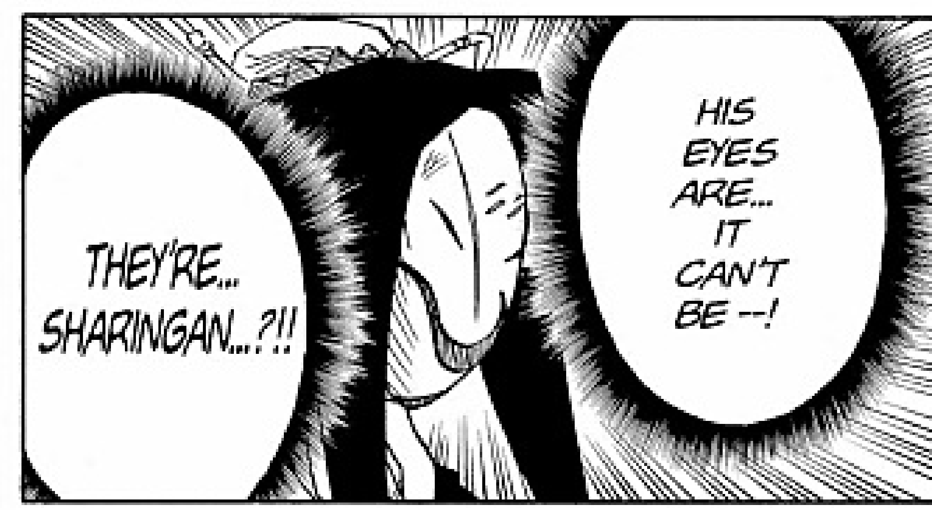

CONCENTRATE...

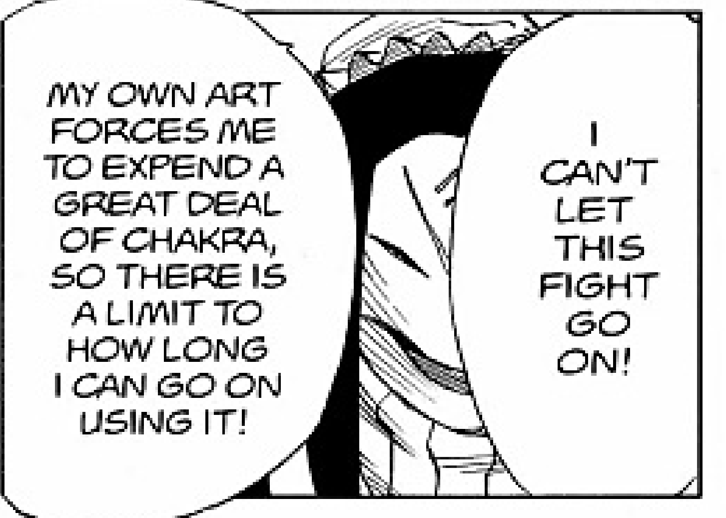

AND LOOK THROUGH THE ILLUSION!!


!
!!
!
HE WASN'T FOOLED... OR EVEN CONFUSED!
IMPOSSIBLE...!!
!
!!

GAR


I SEE... YOU, TOO, SHARE THE LEGACY OF A KEKKEI GENKAI BLOODLINE!
...YOU'RE...!!


THEY'RE... SHARINGAN...?!!
HIS EYES ARE... IT CAN'T BE --!


MY OWN ART FORCES ME TO EXPEND A GREAT DEAL OF CHAKRA, SO THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW LONG I CAN GO ON USING IT!
I CAN'T LET THIS FIGHT GO ON!


TO FIND THAT ABILITY WITHIN HIMSELF AND FORCE IT TO AWAKEN, UNTUTORED, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE --!
IT WAS ONLY FOR A MOMENT... BUT I WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO SEE!!!
AN AMAZING BOY... A PRODIGY... STILL IN THE FLEDGLING STAGES...


AND I'M CERTAIN THAT THE LONGER OUR DUEL DRAGS ON...
THE GREATER YOUR ABILITY TO PERCEIVE MY MOVEMENTS WILL BECOME!
!
ESPECIALLY SINCE, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, YOU CAN ALREADY SEE ME NOW!!
IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO TRY TO TARGET YOU DIRECTLY...
...BUT IF I USE THE OTHER BOY AS BAIT.....
TIME TO BRING THIS TO AN END!!
!!
WHAT?! HE'S GOING AFTER NARUTO?!
NO! I HAVE TO GET THERE FIRST!!

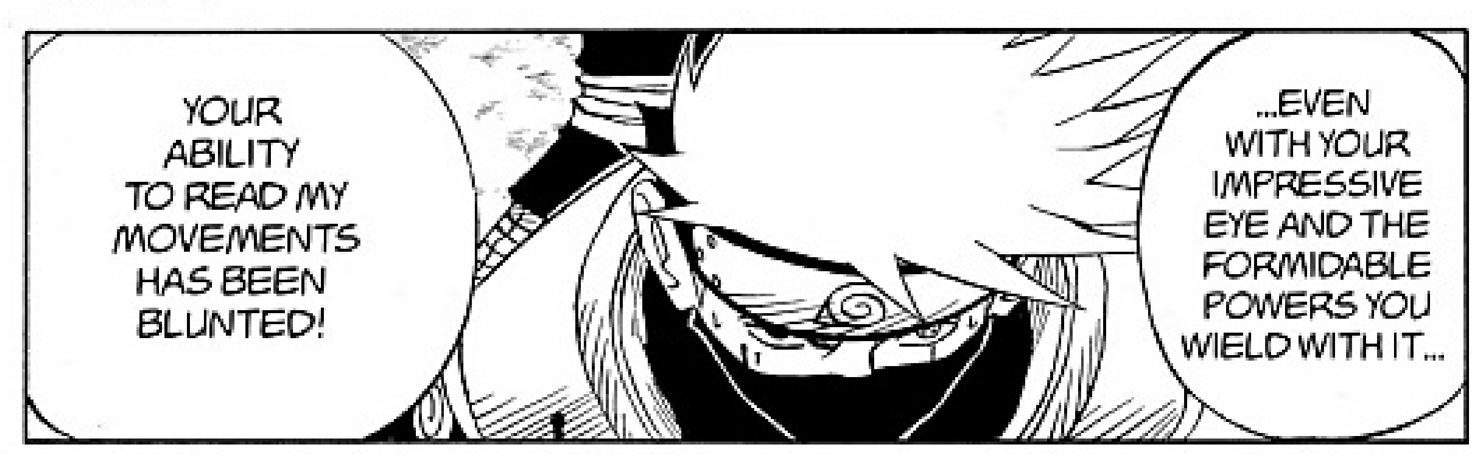

MASTER KAKASHI!!


!!


YOU WERE SLOW ON YOUR GUARD, KAKASHI!!
YOUR DESIRE TO SAVE THOSE BRATS CAUSED THE BLOOD TO RISE TO YOUR HEAD, OBSCURING YOUR THOUGHTS AND VISION AS SURELY AS THE FOG I'VE CREATED DOES!


UHNN...


READ THIS WAY


...EVEN WITH YOUR IMPRESSIVE EYE AND THE FORMIDABLE POWERS YOU WIELD WITH IT...
YOUR ABILITY TO READ MY MOVEMENTS HAS BEEN BLUNTED!


HEH HEH HEH... I WANT TO ENJOY THIS, KAKASHI!
PAYING BACK WHAT YOU DID TO ME WOULD GIVE ME THE GREATEST PLEASURE!!

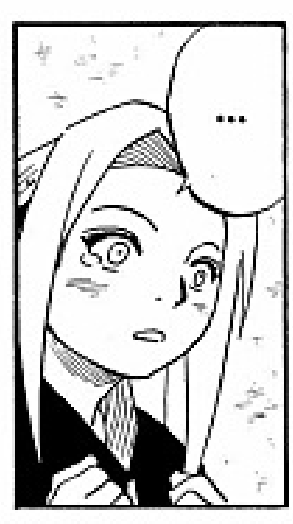

DON'T WORRY, HAKU SHOULD BE FINISHING OFF THOSE BRATS OF YOURS RIGHT ABOUT NOW...
KLAT


I'LL BE REUNITING YOU WITH THEM SHORTLY.
WHEN YOU MEET THEM IN THE AFTER-LIFE, BEG THEM TO FORGIVE YOU FOR YOUR WEAKNESS AND FOLLY!


HEH HEH HEH... HA HA HA HA HAA!!
...
...

OH YEAH!
SASUKE WON'T BE EASY FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT MASKED KID TO DEFEAT!
YEAH!
YEAH!
YEAH!
INNER SAKURA
YEAH!
YEAH!
YEAH!
NEITHER WILL NARUTO!!


YOU'RE RIGHT...


...

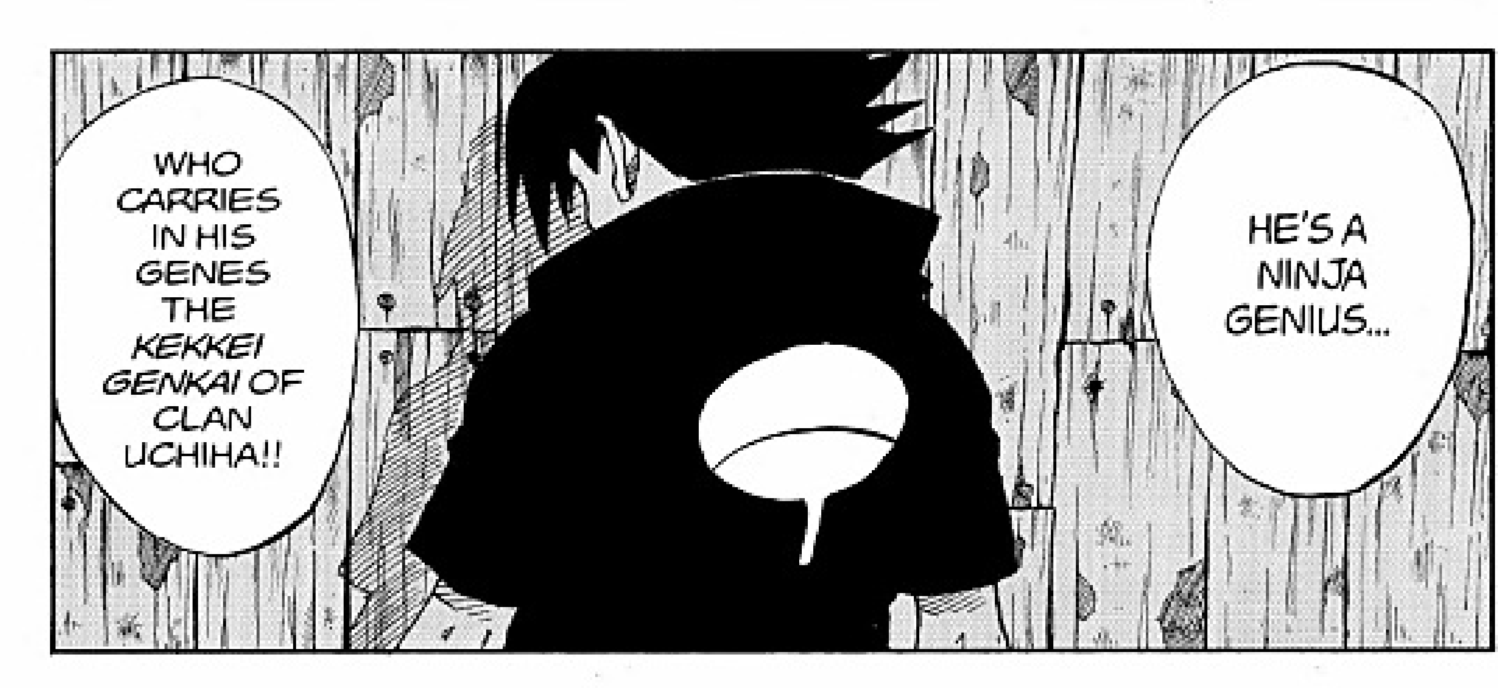

!


I HAVE FAITH IN THEM AND IN THEIR STRENGTHS – NARUTO'S UNPREDICTABILITY...
AND SASUKE IS ONE OF THE MOST WORTHY HEIRS TO THE MOST SUPERIOR BLOODLINE OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE!

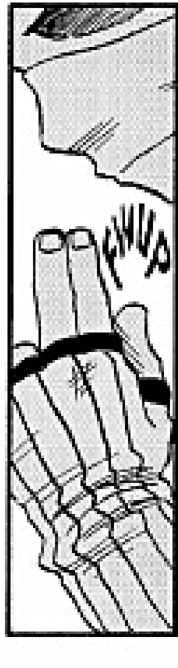
READ THIS WAY







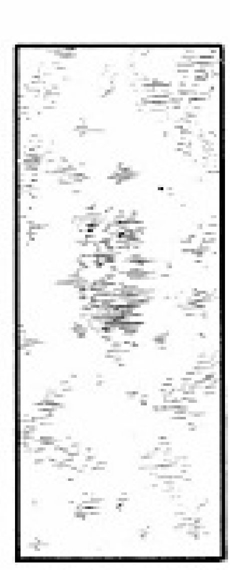




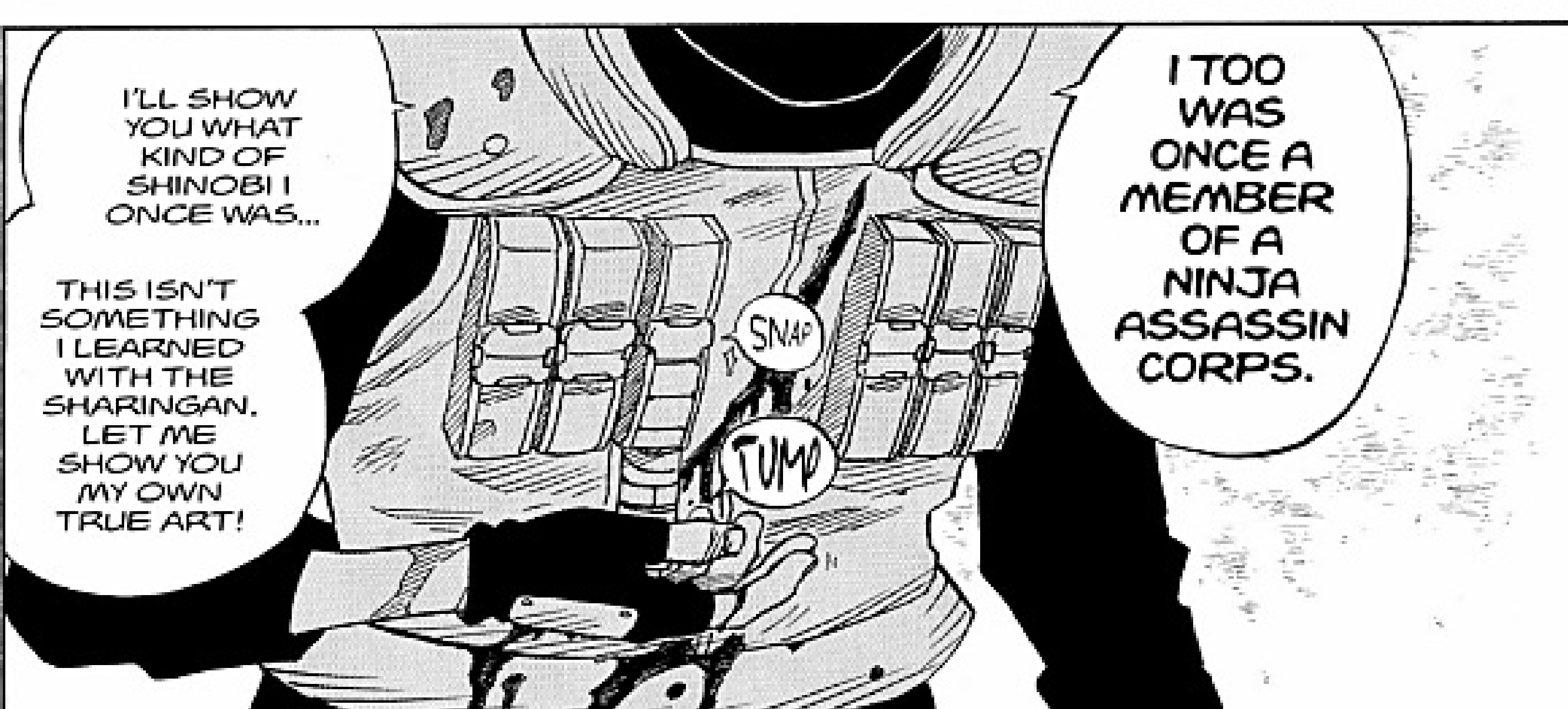



HE'S GONE AGAIN!!
SAKURA, DON'T MOVE AN INCH.
I'LL FINISH THIS AS QUICKLY AS I CAN!

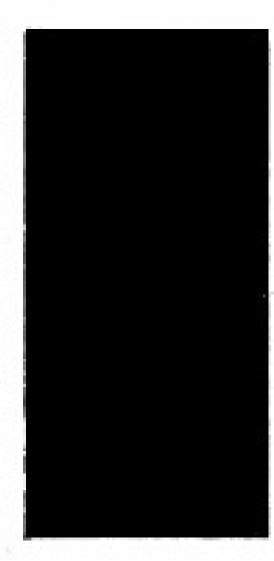

BUT... OH... OK!
TAK

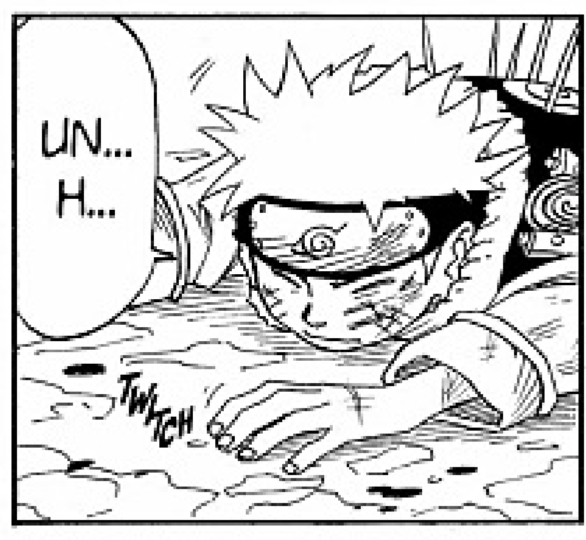


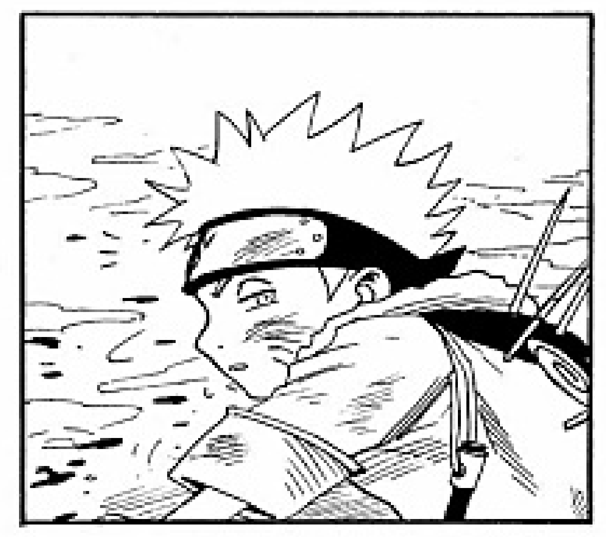

DID YOU HEAR THAT, ZABUZA?
DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE, AFTER ALL OF THE HARDSHIPS, I'VE SURVIVED IN THIS WORLD ARMED ONLY WITH THE SHARINGAN?
TAK
SNAP


I TOO WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF A NINJA ASSASSIN CORPS.
SNAP
TUMP
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT KIND OF SHINOBI I ONCE WAS...
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I LEARNED WITH THE SHARINGAN. LET ME SHOW YOU MY OWN TRUE ART!


READ
THIS
WAY




UN...
H...
TWITCH






SHEESH... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I WARN YOU, NARUTO, YOU STILL KEEP GETTING IN MY WAY...


SASUKE! YOU...
!


NOW GET THAT LAME EXPRESSION OFF YOUR STUPID FACE...
...YOU SCREW-UP!


...
WH- WHY...
HE WAS TRYING TO COVER ME...?!



SMUG GLARE—!

HERE

YOU ASK ME WHY?

-HUD

TRY TO KEEP THAT IN MIND... DUNCE.

"WHY...?"

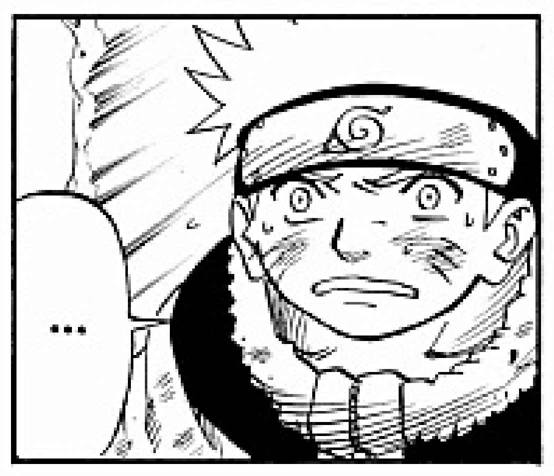
...BE A BETTER

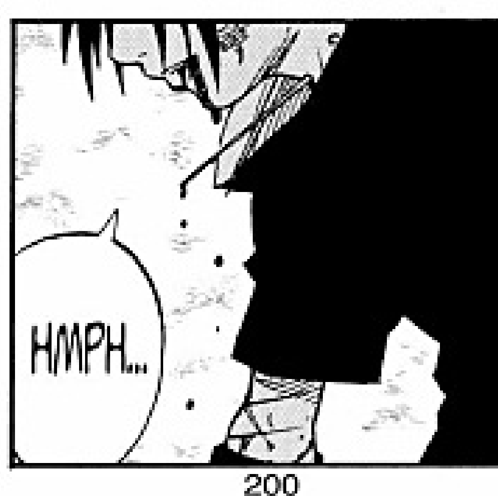
WHAT?

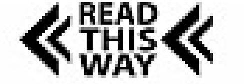
THAT, AND LONELY.

BEING SCOLDED BY YOUR FOLKS DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE!







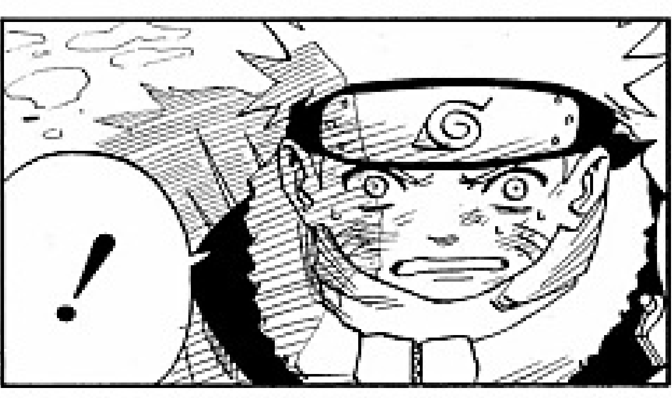

READ THIS WAY


WHY... WHY DID YOU...?!
WHY... ME...?


DRIP


YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST MINDED YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!

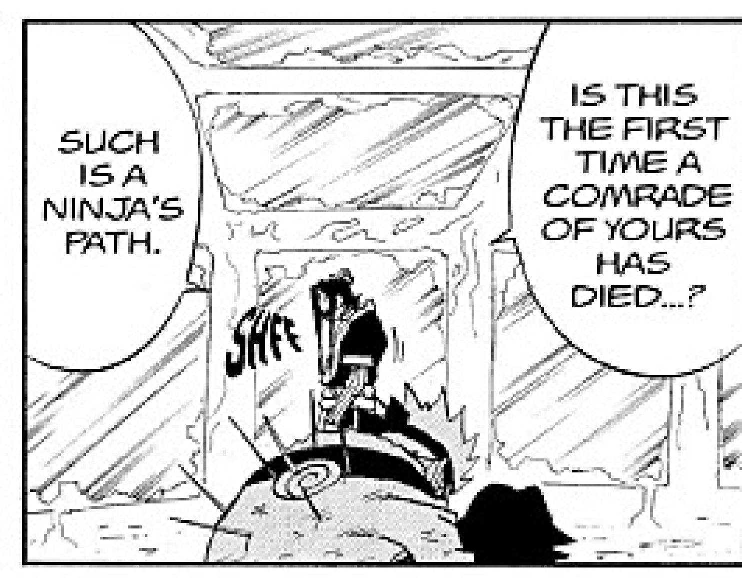

...HOW SHOULD I KNOW...?
GAK
MY BODY JUST... MOVED... ON ITS OWN... FOOL...!


!


SFF


WHUD
!

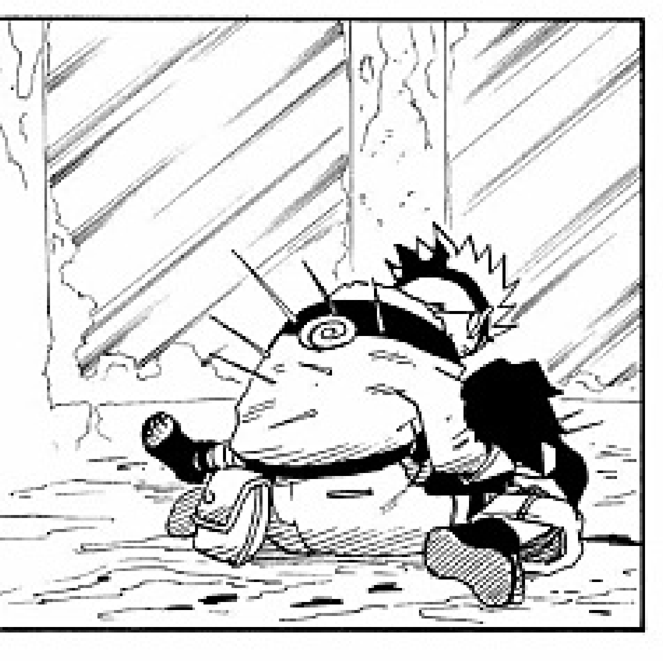

READ THIS WAY
I SWORE I WOULDN'T DIE...
...UNTIL I KILLED HIM... MY OLDER BROTHER.. THOUGHT THE OATH WOULD SAVE ME...BUT...
...BUT DON'T YOU DARE DIE...
!
DRIPP
HE STRUCK ONE BLOW AT ME... AND WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF SHIRKING...
... SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR YOU!!
SHFF
HE WAS A SHINOBI WORTHY OF THE UTMOST RESPECT...
...WHO IN ORDER TO PROTECT SOMEONE HE CARED ABOUT, THREW HIMSELF HEADLONG INTO WHAT HE KNEW FULL WELL WAS A TRAP.





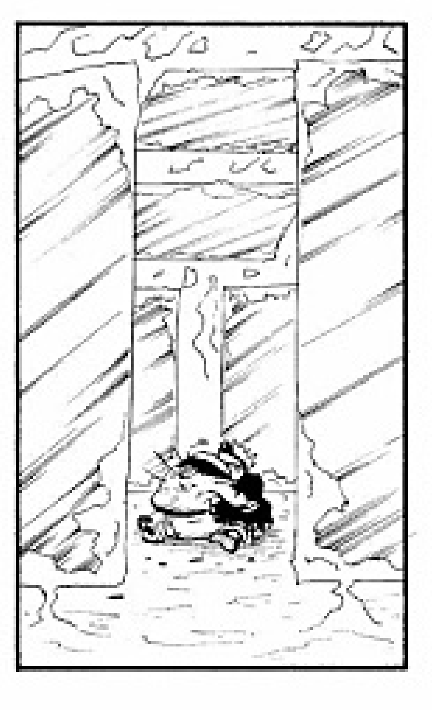








I'M NEVER GONNA FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS...






I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!!
!!
TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL.4!

